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RECORDS OF CONVENTIONS

IN THE

NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS

FOR THE

INDEPENDENCE

OF

VERMONT

1776–1777

Reproduced in facsimile from manuscripts in the Library of Congress,
written and attested by Jonas Fay, Clerk of the Conventions,
with other documents and an explanatory statement

Arranged and presented
by
Redfield Proctor

WASHINGTON D C
1904

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January* 1, 1904.

Hon. G. G. BENEDICT,

President, Vermont Historical Society,

Burlington, Vermont.

DEAR MR. BENEDICT: Historical research and the study of ancient archives is a new field for me. With modesty, therefore, I submit through you to the Vermont Historical Society the story of my investigation in regard to the records now in the Library of Congress of certain early Vermont Conventions, together with a facsimile copy of the records themselves. I trust that you and others more experienced and skillful than I may be stimulated by these records to further pursuit of the facts bearing on this remarkable period of the early political history of Vermont. In looking up this matter I have found in the Department of State, the Library of Congress, the New York State Library, and in our own State, many valuable manuscripts and other material relating to this period of our history. I wish that steps might be taken, preferably by the State itself or the Historical Society, to collect and preserve in convenient and accessible form everything attainable relating to the making of our State.

I am glad to acknowledge my obligation to Judge Jonathan Ross, to Mr. Albert S. Batchellor, a prominent lawyer of Littleton, N. H., to Mr. Ford, Director of the Manuscript Division, and Mr. Spofford, Assistant Librarian, of the Library of Congress, to Mr. A. J. F. van Laer, Archivist, and other officials of the New York State Library, to Dr. H. L. Manchester and Mr. Joseph Safford, of Pawlet, to Mrs. Harriet P. Safford, of West Rupert, to Mrs. R. W. Goodrich, of Rutland, to Judge H. H. Wheeler, of Brattleboro, to Mr. Edward M. Goddard, of the Vermont State Library, and in full measure to you for material aid. In fact, the results obtained are due mainly to the earnest and efficient help given me by these and others upon whom I have called.

This work was commenced by me simply because it seemed a matter that should be undertaken by some one; but my interest has steadily grown, and every step gained has brought a generous reward for the effort required.

Very truly yours,

REDFIELD PROCTOR.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

BURLINGTON, VT., *January* 6, 1904.

Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR,
U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I have been greatly interested in the discovery of the manuscript records of the early Vermont Conventions, photolithographic copies of which you have been good enough to send to me. I have no doubt whatever that the sheets thus reproduced were from the account book of Dr. Jonas Fay, which was the source from which the reports of the General Conventions, printed in Vol. I of the Vermont Historical Society's Collections, and Vol. I of the Governor and Council of Vermont, were obtained by Mr. James H. Phelps.

From the attestation, "A true copy from the original," appended to three of these records, it would appear that there were originals back of these. Probably such originals were the cursory minutes made by the Clerk during the proceedings. If the long-lost papers of Ira Allen, who was the Clerk of some of the Conventions, and who, as the late Hon. E. P. Walton believed, had at one time in his possession the Official Minutes of the Conventions, as well as the Records of the Council of Safety, are ever found, this point may be decided. Meantime, so much as this is plain: these records are in the unmistakable handwriting of Jonas Fay, who was the Official Clerk of most of the Conventions. They were made or copied by him for permanent preservation. So far as is known there is nothing back of them in existence in the way of official manuscript records of these early and most important proceedings in the formative period of the history of our Commonwealth. And the fact that Williams, in the edition of his History, published in 1809, during Dr. Fay's lifetime, printed part of the record of the Convention of January 15, 1777, adding that it was taken from the "original records of the convention, p. 62–68; in the hands of Jonas Fay," these being the very numbers of the pages containing the record of that Convention in the Fay account book, is to my mind incontestable evidence that Williams copied the proceedings from Dr. Fay's book, and knew that the book contained the original records.

These records which you are so generously reproducing in facsimile for the benefit of the present and coming generations should never have passed into the possession of a bitter enemy of Vermont, or been taken from the State, and I trust it is not too much to hope that they may at no distant day be returned and deposited in the archives at our State Capitol.

Permit me to assure you that the Vermont Historical Society will be glad to co-operate with you to the extent of its means in rescuing from oblivion any hitherto unpublished materials of history which you have discovered in your search, and I am

Your obedient servant,

G. G. BENEDICT.

Statement in Regard to the Accompanying Records.

* * *

In July last Judge Ross wrote me that Mr. Batchellor, the official editor of the New Hampshire State papers, had informed him that in the "Peter Force" Collection in the Library of Congress were manuscripts of interest to Vermonters, among them a record of certain Conventions, on the back sheets of which a farmer had kept accounts. On my next visit I found there the sheets, from which the following lithographic copies, with original paging from thirty to seventy, inclusive, were taken. These are all in the handwriting of Doctor Jonas Fay, unless it be the report and Declaration of Independence on page 64 and a part of page 65. On careful examination I think these were also written by him, but in a finer hand and probably later than the record following, and that the writing is more crowded than on the other sheets, because insufficient space had been left for them.

The name "Jonathan Safford," on the last sheet, page 70, of the record, apparently scribbled without purpose, the entry on page 71 made by Heman Safford, the farm accounts running from 1824 to 1827 on the following sheets, and the stamp "N. Y. State Library" on the old covers enclosing it, were the only apparent clues to the history of the manuscript after it left Doctor Fay's hands. Not recognizing the names on the farm accounts as family names of Hartford, Vt., it seemed to me probable that Heman Safford moved to Hartford, Washington County, N. Y., not far from the locality of the Conventions or from the home of Doctor Fay. Correspondence with the Clerk of that County developed the fact that there was no record of Heman or Jonathan Safford, but that in 1856 there was deeded to Jonathan W. Safford, of Pawlet, a piece of land in Granville, N. Y. This located the Safford family, and Doctor Manchester, of Pawlet, furnished me valuable data in regard to that family and Doctor Fay's relations to it.

Doctor Fay resided in Bennington at the time of these Conventions. Later he moved to Charlotte, and soon after that to Pawlet, where he remained several years, and finally returned to Bennington, where he died in 1818. He married in 1777 for his second wife, Lydia, the widow of Challis Safford. Her son, Jonathan Safford, was then eleven years old, and presumably continued to reside with his mother and stepfather, Doctor Fay, with whom he afterwards studied medicine. The intimate

personal and family relations between Doctor Fay and Doctor Safford continued through their lives. Evidence of this is shown by the record in Doctor Fay's handwriting of his own family and Doctor Safford's up to that time, made in 1797 on opposite sides of the same piece of paper, a facsimile of which is given on page marked "B." Doctor Fay moved to Pawlet after 1800 when quite advanced in life, and lived there in 1810, as shown by the patriotic letter from him on pages "C" and "D." In this letter he states that he is living "seven miles north of the post office," which is the exact location of the Safford homestead in Pawlet on which Doctor Safford, and after him his son, Jonathan W. Safford, resided, and where his grandson, Joseph Safford, now resides. It is evident that if Doctor Fay and his wife did not reside with her son, Doctor Safford, they must have resided in his immediate vicinity. Jonathan W. Safford made the farm accounts, as shown by comparing them with his handwriting on sheet "A" furnished me by his son, Joseph Safford. He also wrote the name "Zera Wright" which appears on page 49, written at a much later date than the record. Zera Wright was a brother-in-law, and his name appears several times in the farm accounts.

These facts are, in my view, satisfactory evidence that this book of records was left by Doctor Fay, when he removed from Pawlet, with his stepson, Doctor Safford, and that it remained at the Safford house at least until after the date of the last entry made by Heman Safford, April 6, 1829, on page 71.

In 1870 the first volume of the Vermont Historical Society Collections was published. The record of the early Vermont Conventions begins on page 11 with the call of the Dorset Convention of January 16, 1776, with the following head-note:

"The following call of the Convention and Journal of its proceedings is from a manuscript copy in the possession of Hon. James H. Phelps, of West Townshend, made by him from an official copy certified by Jonas Fay, clerk. It is not known to have ever been in print."

Then follows a record of the several Conventions, and at the close, at the bottom of page 49, is the following foot-note:

"Here ends the manuscript of Mr. Phelps, to which he appends the words: 'Copied from the original record November 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1862, by James H. Phelps.'

"The record from which Mr. Phelps' copy was taken was certified by Jonas Fay, the standing clerk of the conventions. It was only temporarily in the possession of Mr. Phelps, and is not known to be now in existence."

In the first volume of the Governor and Council, published in 1873, beginning on page 14, is a reprint of the same record.

In The Historical Magazine for January, 1871, a New York publication, Henry B. Dawson, the editor, sharply criticises the Vermont Historical Society's publication. He speaks of it as "the Minutes of those meetings of 'The Green-mountain Boys' which ultimately led to the formation of the State of Vermont * * * a series of papers which, for historical importance to every Vermonter, has no existing equal." He then says: "Unfortunately, however, in this case, the Society employed *a copy* instead of the *original manuscripts;* and, it has, consequently, fallen a victim, in several cases, to the incompetency of either its copyist or its proof-reader * * * it is entirely unreliable, as material for history."

In this criticism he made fourteen specific charges of errors, and says:

"There are many other errors which we have not space enough to allude to; but we have said enough to show how entirely useless this portion of the volume is, as *an authority* in historical enquiry. It may serve the purpose for which it was probably intended, among those who read the history of Vermont from the Vermontese stand-point; but to those who read history for the purpose of ascertaining what the truth is * * * some other authority will be requisite."

Mr. Dawson elaborated his charges and argued in support of them at great length.

Governor Hall, Chairman of the Committee of Publication, replied in his "Vindication," which was published in the introductory pages of the second volume of the Vermont Historical Society Collections, beginning on page vii, and also in pamphlet form. As he gives Mr. Dawson's charges in full it is not necessary to repeat them. Suffice it to say that Governor Hall's paper is a complete vindication of the Society from any intentional garbling or reconstruction of the records. The foundation of all the differences was first, in the fact that the Committee of Publication had an imperfect copy, for the mistakes in which it was not in any way responsible, and Mr. Dawson had the original record. The Committee's publication was as near correct as it could be made from the material and data it had. The inaccuracies were not misleading in any important respect, and were due to the imperfections of Mr. Phelps' copy, evidently hastily made. But there was another reason for the disagreement. Mr. Dawson was constitutionally belligerent. This is Governor Hall's truthful characterization of him:

"The chronic propensity of Mr. Dawson to treat such opinions as do not coincide with his own, as founded in dishonesty and crime, must be well

known to the readers of his magazine, and some of them may have noticed that this propensity becomes peculiarly active and violent whenever any question of Vermont history is concerned."

In the following July number of his magazine Mr. Dawson reprinted Governor Hall's publication with extensive foot-notes and a lengthy formal reply in his usual style of sarcasm and invective.

In January, 1872, Mr. Dawson, in The Historical Magazine, commenced the publication of this manuscript, then in his possession, and continued it intermittingly in six numbers, ending with August, 1873. His heading reads:

"'THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS' OF VERMONT.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THEIR CONVENTIONS.

NOW FIRST PRINTED, WITHOUT MUTILATION, ALTERATION, OR INTERPOLATION, FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS."

His publication is shown, by a very careful examination, to be an exact copy in every minute detail—spelling, capitals, abbreviations, etc.—of this manuscript, which he then doubtless owned. This publication, so far as I know, attracted no attention in Vermont, and evidently was not noticed by the officers of the New York State Library, as will appear by his subsequent negotiations with them.

May 3, 1883, Mr. Dawson offered to sell some manuscripts to the New York State Library. In his first offer, May 3, 1883, he speaks of one as "the original MS. Minutes of *all* 'the Green Mountain Boys' Conventions." This, so far as I have seen, is the first time that he claims the ownership of the manuscript or even its possession, except by necessary implication, though later he claims to have bought it some years prior to the publication of the Phelps copy.

October 11, 1883, he writes Doctor Homes, then Librarian, as follows:

"Concerning the original manuscript Minutes of the Conventions of Vermonters, I need not tell you of its great historical importance—it is the *original* record of the beginnings of the State, including the Record of her Declaration of Independence. It has been applied for by several Vermonters; but I have waited until my own State Library has had the refusal of it. I took it out of Jonas Fay's old store Ledger, at a heavy cost, in money and books; and I cannot sell it for less than $150."

October 19, 1883, he writes:

"I deeply regret that the MS. Minutes of the Vermontese Conventions (which were, really, insurrectionary proceedings against the Government of

New York, of which the Vermontese were then subjects) will probably go away from the New York State Library. I regret it, because I am sensible that few papers possess greater historical interest than these, both in New York and in Vermont; and I am nothing else than a New Yorker."

May 6, 1885, he again writes:

"All the ORIGINAL manuscript Journals of the Vermontese, down to and including their celebrated declaration of independence, are, certainly, important in the Library of this State against which they were in revolt."

September 25, 1886, and October 19, 21, 25 and 30 following, he again renewed his proposals to the New York State Library to sell the manuscript in letters which I copied by permission. They are merely cumulative evidence and are here given in whole or in part, not because they are at all necessary in tracing this manuscript, but to show the temper and spirit in which Mr. Dawson engaged in the controversy with Governor Hall and the Vermont Historical Society.

Much of these letters is taken up by his charge that one sheet of the manuscript, which he had sent for inspection, was returned mutilated, for which he charged damages in the decidedly belligerent style of correspondence for which he was noted. He never fails to exhibit his antipathy to Vermont at every opportunity.

September 25, 1886:

"I avail myself of this opportunity to call your attention to two matters in which, I think, the State Library is peculiarly interested. The first is that peculiarly valuable manuscript record of the meetings of the Vermonters down to and including their Declaration of Independence from New York, of which, at that time, Vermont was an acknowledged portion. This manuscript is the *original* record of those meetings, the real foundation of *Vermont* history, and it should find a place in the Archives of our dear old State, to which, or to Vermont, it especially belongs. * * * The State, I think, would make a mistake if it should permit them to pass away from it, to the Library of the Congress or elsewhere."

His letter of October 19 is given in full:

"MORRISANIA, *October* 19, 1886.

DEAR SIR: I am quite surprised that the State of New York, by its authorized representatives, should be contented with a patched, second-hand copy of one of the most important papers connected with her colonial history, the official record of the secession of a large portion of her inhabitants, when the *original manuscript* was offered for so paltry a sum. But, be it so.

On condition that the original shall not be injured, in any way, you may make the *collation* asked for; for the price named, *but I do not consent to a multiplication of copies, in writing*, as such a collation may be made in a few hours; and as I desire to have the original returned to me before *next Saturday afternoon*, I see no reason for the retention of the manuscript more than a single day; and I hope and shall expect to receive it on Friday, at the latest.

Under no circumstances whatever will I consent to have the manuscript copied, further than to correct the *corrupted* copy published by the Vermont Historical Society, on the margins of its volumes; and I positively forbid any other. If that shall not be satisfactory, return the manuscript *at once*, without *making any copy of any portion of it* for *any purpose* whatever.

I have reasons for this peremptory order; and I hope the State Library will respect it.

Yours very truly,

HENRY B. DAWSON."

And yet he had himself published it in full in his magazine in 1872 and 1873. This fact had evidently escaped the attention of the library committee, which was corresponding with him about the purchase of the manuscript, and which actually paid him ten dollars for the privilege of noting the differences between it and the Vermont publication.

October 21, 1886, he writes:

"A most valuable MS., *the original Minutes of Meetings of the Vermont secessionists* for the organization of their revolt from the Colony of New York and including their Declaration of Independence."

October 25, 1886, he speaks of the Vermont publication as "an acknowledged *false version* of those records, printed from a patched-up copy of the original *altered* to suit the taste of the Publishing Committee of the Vt. Historical Society, descendants and successors of the original secessionists."

* * * * * * * * *

"Twenty years ago I paid one hundred dollars for the privilege of taking these leaves out of the store-ledger of Doctor Jonas Fay, who had been the Secretary of the meetings in which these Vermontese, secessionists from N. Y., and correspondents with the British authorities, with a view to returning to the Royal authority, had concocted and contrived their schemes; and, during all the intervening period, those leaves have been the choicest treasure of my Library. They were the official records of the stormy and treasonable first beginnings of the State of Vermont."

October 30, 1886.

"The Vermont Historical Society's notoriously inaccurate version."

NOTE.—The emphatic style of Mr. Dawson's correspondence will be noticed. The capital letters and italics are his.

Here ends the jeremiad of Dawson. It is dismissing him very mildly to say that he was notoriously irascible and quarrelsome. He was such an intense partisan of the New York side of the controversy that he could see no other. He deals in epithet and invective instead of argument. The contrast between his expressions and the calm and judicial statement of Governor Hall in his vindication is so marked as to require no comment.

From Mr. Dawson the manuscript doubtlesss passed direct to the Library of Congress, but just how the Library officials cannot determine. Mr. Spofford says that he has no recollection nor any evidence that the manuscript came to the Library in the Peter Force Collection purchased in 1867, and the supposition that it did was based merely on the fact that this was the source of most of the manuscript collections in the Library. He is now satisfied that it did not, but that it was in Mr. Dawson's possession in October, 1886, and was obtained from him between that date, when last offered to the New York State Library, and the date of his death in 1889. It does not appear in the catalogue of Mr. Dawson's collections which were sold at auction in 1890. Mr. Spofford knew Mr. Dawson well, and examined his collection in his home at Morrisania, and is confident that the manuscript was acquired by the Library within the period named in some way which he cannot now trace.

Following this statement are the facsimile sheets, and after them such conclusions as seem to be established in regard to them.

30

Warrant

Arlington 20th Dec.r 1775

Whereas there has been several Warrants, or Notifications sent up the Country for a General Meeting on the N.r Hampshire Grants to be held at Mr. Ephan Hunt's in Dorset on the first Wednesday of January next, and as it was thought Very Necessary that Col.o Seth Warner with others should attend the S.d Meeting, and their business being such that they could not attend at that time.

This is therefore to Warn the inhabitants on the said N.r Hampshire Grants West of the Range of Green Mountains to Meet together by their Delegates from Each Town, at the House of Mr. Ephan Hunt's in said Dorset on the sixteenth day of January next at nine o'Clock in the Morning, then and there to act on the following Articles (Viz.t)

1.st To Choose a Moderator, or Chairman for said Meeting.
2.d To Choose Clark for said Meeting.
3.d To see if the Law of New York shall have free Circulation where it doth not infringe on our properties, or Title of Lands, or Riots (so called) in defence of the Same.
4.th To see if the said Convention will come into some proper Regulations, or take some method to Suppress all Schismatick Mobs that have, or may arise on said Grants.
5.th To see if they will Choose an Agent, or Agents to send to the Continental Congress.
6.th To see whether the Convention will Consent to Associate with N.r York, or by themselves in the Cause of America.

By Order of

Mores Robinson
Samuel Robinson
Seth Warner
Jeremiah Clark
Martin Powell
Daniel Smith
Jonathan Willard

} Committee

N. Hampshire Grants } Dorset January 16th 1776

At a Meeting of the Representatives of the several Towns in the N. Hampshire Grants, the West side the range of Green Mountains, held this day, at the House of Mr. Ephas Hunts Innholder in said Dorset; Proceeded as follow this viz.

1st Made Choice of Capt. Joseph Woodward Chairman.

2d made Choice of Doct. Jones Clerk.

3d made Choice of Col. Moses Robinson, Majr. Samuel M. Coon & Oliver Lee; assistant Clerks.

4th made Choice of Majr. Thomas Ashley, William Marsh, Ethan Allen, Hale Moulton, Moses Robinson, John McLane, Ismalia Painter, James Hard and Joseph Bowker a Committee to examine, and Report their Opinion to the Convention, Relative to the third Article in the Warrant.

Adjourned to 3 Clock P.M. ___ Met at time and place. ___ Voted to make an Addition of four Persons to the Above Committee ___ Voted to Reconsider the two last Votes, and to discourse the matter for which they were appointed in publick Meeting. ___ Voted that the paper with a number of Signers exhibited to this Convention Relative to Capt. Bowkers Character, be ordered to lay on the Table, till further Order.

Voted that two persons from each Town in the Grants (who are present) be allowed to vote in this Meeting and no more.

Adjourned to 7 Clock Tomorrow Morning.

January 17th 1776 Met at time and place.

Made Choice of Capt. Ethan Allen, Capt. Joseph Bowker, Col. Moses Robinson, John McLane and Col. Timothy Brown or any a Committee to Report their Opinion Relative to the number of Committeemen each Town in the Grants shall be allowed

Voted

32.

Report of the foregoing Sub Committee

Your Committee beg Leave to Report as their Opinion, that the several Town's in the Grants hereafter named, be allowed The number of Member's set against the name of each Town, and that each other inhabited Town in the said Grants be allowed, one, or more, or less Vote's in proportion to the number of such Deputed Member or Members shall Represent.

Towns Names	N°. Vote's allowed	Towns Names	N°. Vote's all.
Pownall	4.	Clarendon	4.
Bennington	7.	Rutland	3.
Shaftsbury	4.	Pittsford	2.
Arlington	3.	Rupert	2.
Sunderland	2.	Pawlet	1.
Manchester	4.	Wells	1.
Dorset	2.	Poultney	2
Dumbee	3.	Castleton	2.
Tinmouth	2.	Nesbobee	1

Joseph Bowker } Chairman of
Sub. Committee

a True Copy Examined
By Jonas Fay Clerk

The above Report being Read was
Voted and Accepted Nem. Con.

Voted to Represent the particular Case of the inhabitants of the N°. Hampshire Grants to the honorable the Continental Congress by Remonstrance and Petition.

Voted That Lt. James Breakenridge, Capt. Heman Allen and Doct. Jonas Fay be and they are hereby appointed to prefer said Petition.

Voted that Doct. Jonas Fay, Col°. Wm. Marlo Mr. Thomas Rowley be a Committee with the above Delegates to prepare the Remonstrance and Petition.

Voted Nem. Con. to pay the above agents their Reasonable Cost's for their Services on their Return

and

and exhibiting their accounts.

Voted Messrs. Simeon Hathaway, Elijah Dewey and James Breakenridge, or either two of them be, and are hereby appointed a Committee with power to Warn a General Meeting of the Committees on the Grants, when they shall judge Necessary from Southern Intelligence.

And that Col. John Strong, Zadock Averett and Asahel Ward be a like Committee with like power of Warning such General Meeting of Committees on the Grants, when they shall judge Necessary from Northern Intelligence.

Voted that the Several Committees of Correspondence continue their Duty as Usual.

Lastly Voted to Dissolve this Meeting

Errors excepted

In Copy examined.

Attest Joseph Woodward Chairman

Attest Jonathan Hay Clerk

Cash Received for the purpose of Defraying the charges of the Delegates appointed to attend Congress

£	s	d		£	s	d
	1	0	Putney	0	6	4
16	8	7			4	3
13	0	2				
4	7	5		1	6	4
7	4	5		1	5	7
11	5	8			3	0
1	4	5				
55	12					

£	s	d		£	s	d
	4	5				
	1	0				
	1	4	5			
Putney				0	6	4
Pittsford				0	6	0
Rupert				0	10	1
				1	2	5

Recd Attest Jonathan Hay Clerk

3

Thomas Hay Jonathan Hay

Warrant 24th June 776.

These are to Warn the several Inhabitants of the N.H. grants on the West side, and to Derry Town on the East side the Range of Green Mountains, That they Meet by their several Delegates, in Genral Convention, to be held at the Dwelling House of Mr. Cephas Hunt inholder in Dorset, on Wednesday the Twenty fourth day of July next at 8 Clock in the forenoon to Act on the following Articles Viz.

1st To Choose a Moderator & Chuse a Clerk for said Convention

2d. To Receive the Report of Capt. Heman Allen from the Continental Congress, he having been previously appointed to Transact Business in behalf of the inhabitants of said grants.

3th To know the Minds of the Convention, Relative to their Associating with the Province of N. Hampshire.

4th In case the last Article be Objected to, Whether said Convention will agree to an Association (Not Repugnant to that of the Continental Congress) and Subscribe thereto, to do Duty ~~with the~~ in Conjunction with the Continental Troops (Only) as Members of the District of Land which they Inhabit.

5th To see if said Convention will currently Recommend it to the several Field Officers heretofore nominated on said Grants, to see that their men be forthwith furnished with Suitable Arms, Ammunition and Accoutriments &c. agreable to a Resolve of the hon.d the Continental Congress.

6th To See if said Convention will make Preperation, and Settle with Capt. Heman Allen for his Expences and Services for the publick. And 7th To Transact any other that shall be thought Necessary in the Power of s.d Convention for the Safety of the Liberties of the Colonies in General and the N. Hampshire Grants in Particular

James Breakenridge
Jonathan Hathaway Jonas
Elijah Dewey Justices

Copies Examined & Jones Jay Clk

Dorset July 24th 1776

In Consequence of the foregoing Warrant the following Persons being Delegates met at this place to transact the Business of said Warrent viz.

Towns Names	Delegates Names	Towns Names	Delegates Names
Pownall	Capt. Sam. Wright	Williston ?	Col. Jno. Chittend
Bennington	Simeon Harkaway	Jericho	Brown Chamberlin
	Jonathan Fay	Colchester ?	Ira Allen
	Jn. Burnam Junr.		
Shaftsbury	Majr. Jeremiah Clark	Hinsborough & Mongton	Isaac Lawrance
	Mr. John Burnam		
Sunderland ?	Joseph Bradley	Nesbeth ?	John Mott
Manchester	Col. Wm. March	Pittsford	Aaron Powers
	Lt. Martin Powell		Jona. Rowley
	Gideon Ormsby		Jonathan Hasleto
Dorset	John Manly	Rutland	Asa Johnson
	Abr. Underhill		Joseph Boutwe
Rupert	Reuben Harmon	Clarendon	Thomas Prater
	Amos Castle		
Pawlet	Capt. William Fitch	N. Wallingford	Matthew Lyon
	Majr. Roger Rose		Abr. Jackson
Wells	David Culver	Tinmouth	Ebenr. Allen
	Ogden Mallory		Stephen Rogers
Poultney	Nehemiah How	Dembee	Capt. Micah Veal
	William Ward		William Gage
Castleton	Ephraim Buell	Townshend	Capt. Sam. Fletcher
	Jesse Belknap		Josiah Fish
		Capt. Hemon Allen	for Middlebrook
Hubberton	Benj. Hitchcock	Voted Unanimously that the above Persons be admitted as Legal Members of this Convention. Copy Examined	
Sudbury	John Gage		
Bigport	Samuel Benton		
Addison ?	Col. John Strong		
Cornwall	James Bentley	Jon. Jones Secy. Clerk	
Burlington	Samuel Bradley		
Shoreham	Thomas Morgan		

Proceed

Proceeded (viz)

Boston

Thoos Captain Joseph Churchmen

Thoos Doctor Jonas Fay Clerk. after which an Motion

being made and agreed to by the House, the Clerk proceeded to

Read the following Address, Remonstrance & Petition of the

Inhabitants of the N.Hampshire Grants to the honorable the Conti-

-nental Congress, which was exhibited to that board by Captain Ethan

Allen in the latter part of the Month of April, or the

beginning of the Month of May A.D. 1776. (viz)

To the honorable John Hancock Esq. President of the

honorable the Continental Congress &c. &c, now Assembled at

Philadelphia.

The Humble Address, Remonstrance and

Petition of that part of Connecticut being Situate South of

Canada Line, West of Connecticut River, North of the Massa-

-chusetts Bay and East of a Twenty Mile Line from Hudsons

River commonly called, and known by the name of the

N.Hampshire Grants Humbly Sheweth,

That your honors Petitioners being fully Sensible

and Deeply affected with the very Alarming Situation

in which the United Colonies are involved, by means of the

designing Ministry, who have flagrantly Usurped, and are

Still using their utmost efforts to bring the inhabitants

of this very extensive Continent of America, into a Base &

Servile subjection to Arbitrary Power, both by & all

the most Sacred ties of Obligation by Covenant and the

well known Constitution by which the British Empire

ought to be Governed, Your Petitioners (not as Parties,

or waste Time) when the whole Continent are in a disagree-

-able Situation, would however beg leave to Demonstrate,

in as Short Terms as possible the Very Peculiar Situation

our

in which your Petitioners have for a Series of Years been Exercised, and are still Struggling.

Perhaps Your honors, or at least some of you, are not unacquainted, that at the Conclusion of the Last War, the above described Premises, which your Petitioners now inhabit was deemed, and Reputed to be in the Province of New Hampshire, and Consequently within the Jurisdiction of the Same, Whereupon Applications were freely made to Benning Wentworth Esq. the then Governor of the Province of N. Hampshire who with the Advice of his Council, did Grant under the Great Seal of Said Province to your honors Petitioners a Large Number of Townships of the Contents of Five Miles Square each, in Consequence of which a great number of your Petitioners, who were men of Considerable Substance disposed of their Interest in their Native Place and with their Numerous Families Proceeded many of them two hundred Miles, Encountering many Dangers, Fatigues and great Hardships to inhabit a Desolate Wilderness; which has now become a well Settled Frontier to those Governments, this was not all our Trouble, for soon after the Commencement of those Settlements, the Monopolizing Landlords of New York, being apprized that the Province of N. Hampshire had granted the said Lands, and that Settlements were actually Making, did present a petition (for we have often heard and Verily believe) in your Petitioners Names Praying that his Majesty would annex the said Lands Granted by the Authority of N. Hampshire to N. York, on account of its Local and other Circumstances for the benefit of the Inhabitants.

Your Petitioners not being apprized of the Intrigue (in this Case) were mute, therefore as no Objection was made why the prayer of the petition should not be Granted his Majesty was pleased with the Advice of his Council on the Fourth day of July A.D. 1764 to Grant the Same, immediately after which the Land Traders of N. York Petitioned the Hon

then Governor of that province for grants of Land, some part of which had been previously granted to your Petitioners, by the Governor and Council of N. Hampshire. The Dispute then became serious; and your Petitioners, then Petitioned his Majesty for Relief in the Premises, His Majesty was pleased to appoint a Committee, who Reported to his Majesty in the premises, and his Majesty was pleased to pass order in the following Words, viz.

"At a Court held at Saint James's the 24th. day of July 1767.

"Present

"The Kings most Excellent Majesty

"The Archbishop of Canterbury
"Lord Chancellor
"Duke of Queensborough
"Duke of Ancaster
"Lord Chamberlain
"Earl of Litchfield
"Earl of Bristol
"Earl of Shelburn
"Viscount Falmouth
"Viscount Barrington
"Viscount Clark
"Bishop of London
"Mr. Secr. Conway
"Hon. Stanley Esqr.

"His Majesty taking the said Report into Consideration
"was pleased with the Advice of his Privy Council to
"approve thereof and doth hereby strictly charge
"Require and Command, That the Governor, or Comman-
"-der in Chief of his Majesties Province of N. York for
"the time being, do not upon pain of his Majes-
"-ties highest displeasure presume to make any
"grant whatsoever of any part of the Land discribed
"in the said Report Untill his Majesties further pleasure
"should be known concerning the Same

"William Sharp

"A True Copy Attest Go. Banyar Deputy Secry

The many intervening, and Unhappy Disputes
which since have happined between those Land traders and
your Petitioners would take up too much time under
the present situation of Publick affairs to Recite, as Capt.
Ethan Allen and Doct.r Jonathan Hay whom we have appointed
to present this to your honor will be furnished therewith
should they find your honor so determined, and such par-
ticulars be thought necessary; let it suffice here only to
mention that the oppressions from those overgrown land Traders
were so Grievous that your Petitioners were again induced, at
great expence to Petition his Majesty; in consequence of
which a committee was appointed and made a Report in favor
of your Petitioners, which is too prolix to be inserted here.

We are called on this moment by the Committee
of Safety for the County of Albany to suppress a dangerous in-
surrection in Tryon County, upwards of ninety Soldiers were on
their March within twelve hours after receiving the news, all
inhabitants of one Town inhabited by your Petitioners, all furnished
with Arms, ammunition, accoutriments, provision &c. — Again
we are alarmed by Express from General Worcester commanding
at Montreal — with the disagreeable News of the unfortunate
attact on Quebec, (Unfortunate indeed to Loose so brave a Comman-
der) requiring our immediate assistance by Troops; in con-
sequence of which a considerable number immediately
Marched for Quebec, and more are daily following this
Example; Yet while we your Petitioners are thus earnestly
engaged we beg Leave to say that we are intirely willing
to do all in our Power in the General cause under the Conti-
nental Congress, and have been ever since the taking Ticonder-
oga &c. in which your Petitioners were principally active, under
the Command of Col.o Ethan Allen, but are not willing to put
ourselves under the honorable the Provincial Congress of N. York

in such manner as might in future be Detrimental to our private property; as the Oath to be Administered to those, who are, or shall be entrusted with Commission from said Congress, and the Association agreed upon by the same Authority, together with some particular Instructions, and Orders for Regulating the Militia of said Province (if conformed to by the inhabitants of the said N. Hampshire Grants) will (as we apprehend) be detrimental to your Petitioners, in the determination of the dispute now subsisting between your said Petitioners and certain Claimants under N. York. And that your Petitioners ardent desire of exerting themselves, in the present Struggle for freedom, may not be restrained, and that we might engage in the Glorious Cause, without fear of giving our Opponents any Advantage in the said Land Dispute, which we would wish to have Lie dormant, until a General Cessation of Tranquility shall allow us the Opportunity for an equitable decision of the Same.

Another Reason that much hinders us from joining N. York hand in hand in the General Cause, is, they will not own us in our property, but on the Contrary, the Judges of their Supreme Court, have expressly declared the Charters, Conveyances &c of your Petitioners Land, to be null and Void.

Therefore we Your honors Humble Petitioners most earnestly pray your honors to take our Case into your Wise Consideration and order that for the future your Petitioners shall do Duty in the Continental Service (if Required) as inhabitants of said N. Hampshire Grants, and not as inhabitants of the province of N. York, or subject to the Limitations, Restrictions, or Regulations of the Militia of said province, and that Commissions as your honors shall judge Meet be

granted

Granted accordingly, and as in Duty bound

your honors Petitioners shall ever pray.

At a Meeting of the Representatives of the different Towns on the N.H. Hampshire Grants Legally Warned and convened at the House of Mr. Cephas Kent's innholder in Dorset on the sixteenth day of January A.D. 1776.

Captain Joseph Woodward Chairman.

Doct. Jonas Fay Clerk. ——— This Meeting after due consideration agreed to prefer to the honorable the Continental Congress a humble Petition setting forth the peculiar circumstance of this part of the Country. Accordingly a Committee was appointed to draw up the same, who drew up the foregoing and Reported it to the house in the Evening, and the Clerk Read the same in his place and afterwards Delivered it in at the Table, the House then adjourned till tomorrow 9 o'Clock.

January 17th Met according to Adjournment.

The said Petition being a second time Read was agreed to by the whole House, then Lieutenant James Breckenridge and Capt. Heman Allen was Nominated to Prefer the said Petition, a Vote was called and passed in the affirmative Nem. con., then Doctor Jonas Fay was Nominated and a Vote called passed in the affirmative Nem. con.

attest Jonas Fay Clerk Joseph Woodward Chairman.

A True copy from the Original
Errors excepted

Jon. Fay } Committee
Ira. Allen } appointed

Captain

Captain Heman Allen, appointed to Prefer the foregoing to the honorable the Continental Congress, being present, and on a Motion being made and Seconded, Reported to the Convention as follows, viz.

That in consequence of his Appointment for that purpose, he had delivered the said foregoing Remonstrance, Address and Petition to the honorable John Hancock Esq.r the President of the Congress then sitting at Philadelphia, and that by the direction of the honorable House, it was Read in his Place at the Board by the Secretary.

That the Delegates from the province of N.w York endeavoured to oppose the said petition, but that it was entered on file and ordered to Lie on the Table for further consideration.

That on the advice of several Gentlemen, he made a Motion to withdraw the said petition, that the Delegates from N.w York should not have it in their power to bring the matter to a final Decision, at a time when the Convention in the Grants had no proper Deligate in the House, that in consequence thereof the Motion was Entered on the Minutes, the Petition not being Ready at hand at that time.

That he had many private conferances with sundry Member of Congress and other Gentlemen of Distinction Relating to the particular circumstances and Situation of the New Hampshire Grants, who did severally earnestly Recommend that the inhabitants of said grants Exert themselves to their utmost abilities to Repel, by force, the Hostile invasions of the British Fleets and Armies against the Colonies of America, and that said inhabitants do not by any way, or Means whatsoever connect, or Associate with the honorable Provincial Congress of New York, or any Authority derived from, by, or under them directly

or

or indirectly, but that the said inhabitants do forth- 43
-with convult suitable Measures to Associate and
Unite the whole of the inhabitants of said Grants
Together.

Proceeded Viz

This Convention being fully Sensible that the importance of the Business which occasions there Meeting at this time Requires the most serious deliberation, are therefore disposed to make the following Votes viz.t.

1st. That not more than One person be Allowed to Speak at the same time, and only by Leave of the Chairman.

2d. That the business of the Meeting be closely attended to, and that the several Articles contained in the Warrant for this Meeting, be severally followed in Course (Except otherwise over-ruled.

3. Voted to pass over the fourth, fifth and sixth Articles of the Warrant, till tomorow at 10 oClock at this place

Voted Col.o William Marsh, Col.o Thomas Chittenden, John Brownson jun.r, Capt. Micah Veal and Lieut. Joseph Bradley, be a Committee to examine the Account of Capt. Heman Allen for his Service for the Publick, and Report their Opinion thereon to this Convention 9 oClock Tomorow Morning.

adjourned to 7 oClock tomorow Morning at this place.

Meeting Opened at time and place.

Proceeded to the Consideration of the fourth Article of the Warrant and after due Consideration it was dismissed.

Proceeded to the Consideration of the fifth Article of the Warrant and Resolved that Application be made to the Inhabitants of said Grants to form the Same into a Seperate District, dissentient only One.

Proceeded to the Consideration of the sixth Article of the Warrant, and Voted to Recommend it accordingly

Voted

44

Voted to Choose a Committee to Treat with the Inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants on the East side the Range of Green Mountains, Relative to their Associating with this Body.

Voted that Capt. Heman Allen, Col.o William Marsh and Doct.r Jonas Fay in Conjunction with Capt. Samuel Fletcher and Mr. Joshua Nash, be a Committee to exhibit the Proceedings of this Convention, to said Inhabitants, and to do the Business as above.

Voted Doct.r Jonas Fay, Col.o Thomas Chittenden and Lieut. Ira Allen a Committee to prepare instructions for ~~the~~ the above said Committee.

Voted that Col.o Seth Warner and Col.o Thomas Chittenden be a Committee to present a petition to the General and Commander in Chief of the Northern Department, Requesting his Assistance, in Guarding the Frontiers to the Northward on the said New Hampshire Grants.

Voted that Doct.r Jonas Fay and Col.o William Marsh be a Committee to prepare the above petition.

Adjourned one hour

The Meeting Opened at time and place.

Proceeded to the Consideration of the following Association viz.t

/ / This Convention being fully Sensible that it is the Will and Pleasure, of the honorable the Continental Congress, that every honest friend to the Liberties of America in the several United States thereof, should Subscribe an Association, binding themselves as Members of Some Body, or Community, to stand in the Defence of those Liberties; And Whereas it has been the Usual Custom for individuals to Associate with the Colony, or State which they are reputed to be Members of. Yet Nevertheless the long and Spirited Conflict which has for many Years Subsisted, between the Colony, or State of New York and the Inhabitants of that District of Land, Commonly Called and known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants, Relative to the Title of Land on said District Rendered it inconvenient for

Many

many Expects to Associate with that Province, or State, which has hitherto been the sole Reason of our not Subscribing an Association before this.

The better therefore to convince the Publick of our Readiness so to join in the the common Defence of the aforesaid Liberties, We do Publish and Subscribe the following Association Viz.t

We the Subscribers inhabitants of that Destrict of Land, commonly called and known by the name of the New-Hampshire Grants, do Voluntarily and solemnly Engage under all the ties held sacred amongst Mankind at the Risque of our Lives and fortunes to Defend, by Arms, the United American States against the Hostile Attempts of the British Fleets and Armies, Until the present Unhappy Controversy, between the Two Countries shall be Settled.

Signers Names viz.t

Joseph Bowker	Abraham Jackson	William Ward
Thomas Chittenden	Samuel Wright	James Bentle
Simeon Hathaway	Samuel Benton	Thomas Morgan
Jeremiah Clark	Jesse Belknap	Heman Allen
Joseph Bradley	Abraham Underhill	John Burnum Jr.a
Micah Veal	Ephraim Bowell	Matthew Lyon
William Gage	Eben.r Allen	William Fitch
Reuben Harmon	Benjamin Hicock	Ozden Mallory
John Manley	Isaac Lawrance	Iman Fay
Seth Warner	Daniel Culver	Martin Powell
William Marsh	John Burnum	Roger Rose
Gideon Ormsby	John Strong	Samuel Fletcher
Stephen Royce	Samuel Bradley	Josiah Fish
Amos Curtis	John Gage	
Ira Allen	John Mott	
Nehemiah How	Jonathan Rowley	
Asa Johnson	Jer.h Hazlett	
Brown Chamberlin	Aaron Parsons	

The above are the Names of the Delegates.

Thomas Baten of Clarendon the only Dessenient.

Resolved

46

Resolved that it be and it is hereby recommended to the Several inhabitants on the N. Hampshire Grants (who are friends to the Liberties of the United States of America, that they Subscribe the Association agreed on, and signed by the several Members of this Convention, and Return the same to the Clerk thereof as soon as may be.

Resolved Unanimously, that any person, or Persons inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants that shall neglect or Refuse Subscribe, and Return an Association to any the Committee, or Committee's of Safety for either of the Counties in the Province of N. York, or to the provincial Congress thereof, Otherwise than the Association contained in these Records and Subscribed by the Several Delegats of this Convention, shall be Deemed Enemies to the Common Cause of the N. Hampshire Grants.

Resolved that nine persons be Chosen as a Committee of Appeals, who are to hear and determine such Matters as may be properly Exhibited to them (in writing) by any of the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants Relative to the Cause of American Liberty, by way of proper Appeal from the judgment of either of the Committee's of Safety on said Grants, any five of which Committee to be a Quorum.

Resolved that Doctor Jonas Fay, Col.o Timothy Brownson, Col.o William Marsh, Capt. Joseph Bowker, Capt. Joseph Woodward, Capt. Micah Veal, Col.o Thomas Chittenden, Major Stephen Royce and Capt. Jonathan Underhill, be and are hereby Unanimously Appointed a Committee for the above purpose.

Lastly Resolved to Adjourn this Convention to Meet at this place on Wednesday the 25th day of September next at 8 Clock in the Morning

attest Jonathan Fay Clerk Joseph Bowker Chairman

13

N Hampshire Grants

Captain Dewel 25 Sept 1776

At a General Convention of the several Delegates from the Towns on the West side of the range of Green Mountains the 24th day of July last Consisting of fifty one Members Representing thirty five Towns; Convened this day by Adjournment by the Representatives on the West and East side the said range of Green Mountains; the following Members being present at the Opening of the Meeting —

Captain Joseph Bowker in the Chair

Doct. Jonas Fay — Clerk

Townsend	Capt. Sam.l Wright Doct. Obadiah Burnham
Brattleborough	Mr. Simeon Hathaway Doct. Jonas Fay Capt. John Burnham Nathan Clark Esqr. Majr. Sam.l Safford Col.o Moses Robinson
Shaftsbury	Major Jeremiah Clark Mr. John Burnham
Sunderland	Lieut. Joseph Bradley Col.o Timothy Brownson
Manchester	Col.o Wm. Marsh Lieut. Martin Powel Lieut. Gideon Cromby
Dorset	Mr. John Manley Mr. Alex.r Vanderhill
Rupert	Mr. Reuben Harmon Mr. Amos Curtis
Pawlet	Capt. Wm. Fitch Major Roger Rose
Wells	Zacheus Mallery Ogden Mallery
Poultney	Mr. Nehemiah Howe Mr. Wm. Ward
Castleton	Capt. Joseph Woodward
Bridport	Mr. Sam.l Benton
Addison	Mr. David Vallence
Hartford	Mr. Thomas Morgan
Willerton	Col.o Thomas Chittenden
Colchester	Lieut. Ira Allen
Middlebury	Mr. Jamaiel Lawton
Burlington	Mr. Samuel Bradley
Newhaven	Capt. Timothy Bentley Mr. Thomas Sutliff
Rutland	Capt. Joseph Bowker Col.o James Mead
Wallingford	Mr. Abraham Sawyer
Tinmouth	Capt Ebenezer Allen Major Thomas Tupper
Danby	Capt. Micah Vail Mr. William Gage
Pawlet	John Gale
Bromley	Capt. Wm. Atley
	Col.o [illegible] Brownson Capt. Hezekiah [illegible]
East side Green Mountains	
Marlborough	Capt. Francis Whitmore
Guilford	Col.o Benjamin Carpenter Major John Sargeant

Windsor	Mr. Ebenezar Hemingway	Walpingham or Bradford	by a Letter from Jo. Sawyer
Hertford	Edward Aikin		
	Colo. James Rogers	Cumberland	by a Letter
Newhampton	Doctr. Reuben Jones	Halifax	Colo. Benj.a Carpenter
Leminster	Mr. Joseph Hedrick		
	Lieut. Leonard Spalding		
Westminster	Joshua Webb		
	Nathl. Robinson Esqr.		

The foregoing Members being organized proceeded to business

1st Voted that the Records & proceedings of this Convention held at this place from the 16th of January 1776 to this time be read to give light to those Gentlemen Delegates from the east side of the Green Mountains in particular and the Whole in general.

2d Voted that the words "Shall have been heretofore Subscribed and returned" "or shall" intended in a Vote at the last setting of this Convention be Erased, which is accordingly done.

3d Voted to adjourn till 8 o'Clock to morrow Morning at this place.

Thursday 8 o'Clock in the Morning Meeting opened at time and place.

4th Voted to make a general List of the Names of those of the inhabitants of the several Towns on the New Hampshire Grants, who have signed the General Association, Voted by the last Convention to be signed.

5th Voted that no Member of this Convention be permitted to speak more than three times to one case at one sitting without Leave of the Board.

6th Voted that the Association originally signed be returned to the Clerk of this Convention at their next setting.

7th Voted to take the following Vote passed on July 24th 1775 into consideration, viz. Proceeded to the consideration of the fifth Article of the Warrant and Voted that suitable application be made to form that District of Land commonly called and known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants into a seperate District, passed in the Affirmative not one dissenting Vote.

8th Voted Coln. Wm. Marsh Doctr. Jonas Fay, Doctr. Reuben Jones, Capt. Hamilton, Lieut. Thomas Chittenden, Colo. Benjamin Carpenter and Colo. James Rogers be a Committee to form a Petition for

future proceedings and report to this Convention as soon as may be

9th Voted to adjourn this Meeting until half past 1 o'Clock at the House at this place.

Meeting opened at time and place.

Report (for opinion) of a sub Committee

A Covenant or Compact ought to be entered into by the Members of this Convention for themselves and Constituents to be Governed and Regulated by such Rules as may be Agreed on by the Majority

(viz) To Regulate the Militia to furnish Troops according to our Ability for the defence of the Liberties of the United States of America

To return the Numbers of the inhabitants on this District to the Continental Congress and at all times to be Governed by their Councils — Vera Wright Pro

A number of Men to be Elected to wait on the Hon Continental Congress with such Petitions or Directions as shall be agreed on by this Convention.

Voted That Gonsale suitable provisions that the whole of the Inhabitants on N. Hampshire Grants on each side of the Green Mountains be Notified and have proper opportunity to join and coincide with the Measures taken and to be hereafter taken for the benefit of forming s.d District into a seperate State

As the troublesome and aged Contest subsisting between the State of N. York and that District of Land commonly called and known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants relative to the Title of Lands on s.d District has not as yet subsided

We do therefore Vote that any Law, or Laws, Order or Direction we may for the time being, received from the State of N. York will not in future be Regarded neither will we hold ourselves bound by them.

Some measures to be Entered into for the better securing the Forces on s.d District.

That the Militia Officers on each side the Green Mountains continue in their Stations and attend to the Orders to them heretofore received from the State to be under the direction of this Convention

The foregoing Proposition are humbly submitted to the Members of the General Convention now assembled at Dorset.

Per Benjn Carpenter } Chairman
Committe

19th Voted to accept the above report of the sub Committee

11th Voted to adjourn this Meeting until 2 half past 1 oClock in the afternoon at this place.

Thursday half after 1 oClock in the afternoon.

Meeting opened.

11th Voted that a Covenant or Compact be made and subscribed by the Members of this Convention for themselves and Constituents for the security of their Common Liberties and Properties in conjunction with the Free and Independant States of America.

13 Voted that Doctr Jonas Fay, Colo Moses Robinson, Colo Wm Marsh, Mr Ebenezer Mowington, Doctr Reuben Jones, Colo Thos Chittenden and Doctr Obadiah Dunham be and are a Committee to form the said Covenant or Compact and report to this Convention as soon as may be.

Voted to adjourn this Meeting until 8 oClock to morrow morning.

Friday 27th September 1776 opened the Meeting at time and place.

The Covenant or Compact.

We a General Convention consisting of fifty two Delegates on the New Hampshire grants on the east and west side of the range of green mountains representing thirty three towns on said Grants held at Dorset the 25th day of September 1776 by adjournment

Whereas this Convention have for a series of years had under their particular considerations the divergencies of Counsel of the former Colony now State of New York

found

toward the inhabitants of that District of Land commonly
called and known by the name of the New Hampshire Gra
and the several illegal unjustifiable and unreasonable Me
they have taken to Deprive by fraud violence and oppres
the inhabitants of their property and in particular their
Land Interest and at this Convention have reason to expe
a Continuance of the same kind of Ingenuity unless
some manner effectually be taken to form the s.d Distric
into a seperate and Distinct one from New York and whereas it
present appears to this Convention that for the foregoing Reason
together with the distance of road which lies between this Dist
and N. York that it will be very inconvenient for the Inhabita
to Associate or Connect with them for the time being directly
or indirectly.

Therefore this Convention being fully convinced
that it is necessary that every individual in the United Sta
of America should exert themselves to their utmost Abilities in
the defence of the Liberties thereof and that this Convention may
the better satisfy the Publick of their punctual Attachment to
the s.d common Cause at present as well as heretofore we
make and subscribe the following Covenant. (viz)

We the Subscribers Inhabitants of that District
Land commonly called and known by the name of the
Hampshire Grants being legally Delegated and Authori
transact the Public and Political affairs of the aforesa
District of Lands for ourselves and Constituents do solemn
Covenant and engage that for the time being we will
and Religiously Adhere to the several Rules & Orders of this
Convention Constituted on s.d District by the free voice
Friends to American Liberties that shall not be Repugnant to
Resolves of the hon.ble Continental Congress relative to the Gen
Cause of America.

16th Voted that Col.o Jacob Bailey Capt. Elnor Seeley & Col.o Jacob Kent
be a Joint Committee to exhibit the proceedings of this
Convention

Meeting to the inhabitants of the County of Gloucester
and request them to sign the Association left with them
at their County Convention held at Thetford the 13th day of
August 1776 and return the same by their Delegate or
Delegates chosen or to be chosen hereafter to meet and join
this Convention at their next sitting.

9th Voted that it be and it is hereby Recommended, to the several
Chairmen of the several Committees of the several Towns
on the West side of the Green Mountains on the N Hampshire
Grants, forthwith to see to it, that the Association made at the
last setting of this Convention be forthwith signed, by every
individual Male inhabitant of each Town from 16 years
old and upward, and that for the future each person sub-
scribe his own name or mark; and that the Association
thus signed be Returned to Doctr Jonas Hay Clerk of this
Convention, before the next setting of this Convention;
and if any refuse to sign the Association to take their
Names and Reasons why they will not subscribe to it.

10th Voted to adjourn this Meeting one hour at this place.

Friday 2 o Clock the Meeting opened at
time and place.

11th Voted that Colo Wm Marsh, Capt Asa Allen be a Committee
to go into Cumberland, and Glocester Counties to carry
the Proceedings of this Convention, and to assist in getting
the Association sign'd by this Convention signed, and
Collected to the Clerk of this Convention.

Voted, that Doctr Jonas Hay, Doctr Reuben Jones, & Colo Wm Marsh,
be a Committee, to draw a Remonstrance or Petition to
unto the Continental Congress, and Report to this
Convention as soon as may be.

Report of the above said Committee

Whereas

The grounds of this Petition and Remonstrance, to be Exhibited to the Grand Council of America, by their Convention, to contain the following Heads

The several Measures taken by the Colony or State of New York, heretofore to Monopolize the Landed Interest of the Inhabitants on these Grants to themselves Circumstances in particular of the conduct of N. York, on each side the Mountains to be particularly considered.

Distance from the Metropolis of any State &c.

Persons to be Appointed for making the Draught; a Committee to be appointed to examine the draught, with Authority from this Convention to Sign the same, in the Name of the whole of this Convention.

Persons to be appointed to exhibit the same properly Delegated to the hon.ble Board at the Continental Congress.

The above submitted to the Consideration of

the hon.ble Convention

Pr. William Marsh } Chairman
Committee

21.st Voted, that the above Report of the sub Committee be Accepted.

22.d Voted, that Doct.r Jonas Fay write an answer to Mr. John Hector

23.d Voted, that the Committees of Safety, for the several Towns on the District of the New Hampshire Grants, be and are invested with the same Authority, as other Committees of Safety, for other Towns in any of the three United States of America.

24.th Voted, that a sufficient Goal be built on the west side of the Range of Green Mountains, at some place, that shall hereafter agreed on, for securing Forfeits.

25.th Voted, that Nathan Clark Esq.r Capt.n Micah Veal, Lieut Samuel Benton, Major Jeremiah Clark, & Col.o James Mead, be a Committee to Assign a place to erect a Goal as above, and procure the necessary Materials for the same as soon as may be and report to this Convention

Sund.y

Report in the opinion of the above sub Committee
It is hereby Recommended to this Convention, that a Goal be
erected in the Townships of Manchester; Twenty foot by
Thirty in wch. sd Goal to be built with Logg, and earth;
wch. Goal to be erected a few Rods east of the now dwelling
house of Lieut. Martin Powel in sd Town; for the confinement
of Tories, and other Offenders, that may be adjudged to be
confined: wch Goal to be built of a double wall of Logg
Less than twelve inches through; said eighteen inches distance
between wch walls, the vacancy to be filled up with earth;
about 7 feet high, and then floored with logg double, a
good Roof, and a strong wooden door &c &c. —

And that some suitable person or persons, be appointed
to see the performance of the above strong hold; and to be
reliquished therefore by this Convention, or as they in their
great wisdom shall order

by order of Comon Committee
Nathan Clark Chairman

26th Voted to accept of the above Report.

27th Voted that Lieut. Martin Powell, Mr. Gideon Ormsbey and
Mr. Thomas Bull be a Committee to build a Goal as above
proposed.

28th Voted that Lieut Martin Powel be Goal keeper.

29th Voted that Mr. Simeon Hathaway, Doct. Jonas Fay, Nathan Clark
Esqr, Lieut. Joseph Bradley, Lieut. Martin Powel, Mr. Cephas
Kent, Capt. Joseph Bowker, Capt. Joseph Woodward, and Nehemiah
How be a Committee of War.

30th Voted that the several Colonels, on the west side of the Range of Green
Mountains, issue their Orders immediately to their several
Captains under them, to Muster their Companies, and to take
their

the number of men gone in the service, and what service, and how many at home, and their Arms, Accoutrements, and Ammunition, and the Colonels to make their return to the Committee of War, and the Committee of war to this Convention.

31st Voted that the several Colonels give special orders to the Captains under them to raise their Quota's of men, to fill up the six Companies of Rangers.

32d Voted that Nathan Clark Esqr., Docr. Obadiah Dunham, & Mr. John Bro[illegible] be a Committee to affix fines on all delinquents in the Militia and make return to this Convention as soon as may be.

Report of the opinion of the above Committee

A Colonel refusing or neglecting to Comply with any orders from this Convention to pay a fine of ..... 33 Dollars

A Lieutenant Colonel refusing or neglecting to obey his Commanding Officer ..... 25 Do

Major ..... 20 Do

Captain ..... 10 Do

Lieutenant, Adjutant, Quarter Master, & Ensign ..... 7 Do Each

Sergeant, and Clerk ..... 2 Do Each

Corporal ..... 1½ Do

Drummer and Fifer ..... 1¼ Do Each

Private ..... 1 Do

If a Soldier drafted in any particular service, and absconding shall be subject to pay a fine of Twenty five Dollars and an Officer in proportion as above.

That the Committee of War have full power to hear any complaint against any Field Officer for neglect of their duty & to proceed against them or either of them to collect by warrant or execution from under their hands such fine or fines as is appointed by this Convention in like manner the Field Officers to fine all the Commissioned Officers in their respective Regiments for their being directed to some suitable person to collect the same

in like manner two commissiond officers of each Company to try all non commissioned officers and privates to award in the manner aboveasd; said fines to be used or applied to furnish those men in sd Captcompany's that are not able to furnish themselves with arms and Ammunition and Accoutrements as required and that each non commissiond officer and private provide himself with a suitable Gun and one pound powder four pound of Bullets fit for his gun die flints, powder horn cartouch box or bullet pouch a sword bayonet or tomahawk and for want of a gun to pay a fine of five dollars on each time so required to appear under arms and for want of each other Accoutrement the sum of half a dollar when required as aforesaid.

Fines for each days neglect.

A Colonel	£1 16 0	Quartermaster	£1 10 0
Lieutenant Colonel	1 10 0	Serjeant	0 8 0
Major	0 18 0	Corporal	0 6 0
Captain	0 16 0	Drum and fife	0 4 6
Lieutenant	0 14 0	Private	0 3 6
Ajutant & Ensign	12 0		

By Order of Committee

Nathan Clark Chairman

93d Voted to accept of the above Report.

94th Voted that the Committee of War be and are impowered to issue their warrants in the name and by the Authority of this Convention to the several Field Officers of the Militia on the district of the New Hampshire Grants that on any sufficient notice Received from the General or Commander in Chief of any of the Armies of the United States of America, the Honorable Continental Congress, or in any sudden Emergency that shall be judged by sd Committee of War to be for the immediate

Assembly of the Govmt requesting the assistance of the Militia with part of
and march immediately to the relief of the Continental Army
may be required to. And in case any person legally notified
justly belonging to any or either the Companies of the Militia
of s.d District shall refuse or neglect to perform the Duty enjoined on him or them by the Officers of
the Regiment to which he or they do or may belong that they
be fined unless sufficient excuse be rendered to the Committee
of War.

35th Voted that Doctr Reuben Jones, and Lieut. Leonard Spalding
wait and take the proceedings of this Convention and
deliver to their Constituents.

36 Voted that Doctr Jonathan Hay, Capt Samuel Wright, Major Jer
Clark, Colo Timothy Brownson, Colo William Marsh, Capt
Joseph Bowker, Colo Thomas Chittenden, Capt Herman Allen
Capt Wilm Fitch, Capt Micah Vead, Lieut Jam.s Benton,
and Capt. Ira Allen be a Committee to attend this Convention
at their next Setting. And it is recommended for each Town
to send one more Delegate.

37th Voted that Doctr Jonathan Hay Colo William Marsh and Doctr Reuben
Jones be a Committee to draw a Petition to send to the Hon.ble
Continental Congress; and Report to a Committee to be appointed
to examine the same.

38th Voted that Nathan Clark Esqr, Colo Seth Warner, Captain
Herman Allen,
be a Committee to examine the aforesaid
Petitions.

39th Voted to adjourn to 8 o Clock to morrow morning at this place
Saturday morning 8 o Clock Sept. 28th 1776 the Meeting
opened at time and place.

40th Voted to defer the examination of the Petition to the Continental Congress till Cous. next Meeting then to fill up the
Committee for that purpose

41st Voted

41st Voted that four Men be appointed as Delegates to go to the Continental C. Congress with a Petition or such Directions as this Convention shall Give them.

42d Voted that Dott Jonas Gray Col. Thomas Chittenden &c be a Committee in Conjunction with two more to be appointed for a Committee for that purpose.

43d Voted that Col. Seth Warner, Capt. Herman Allen, Capt. Gideon Brownson Mr. Ebenezar Hoisington, Capt. Abner Seeley, & Dott. Jonas Gray be a Committee to prepare a Petition to send to the State of New York to know if they have any Objection against our being a Seperate State from them: and make Report as soon as may be.

44th Voted that as it appears that the Town of Salisbury are principally Tories, yet the Friends of Liberty are Ordered to warn a Meeting and choose a Committee of Safety and Conduct as other Towns, if they meet with Opposition to make application to the Committee of Safety of the neighbouring Towns for Assistance.

45th Voted that no Person be admitted to act in choosing Committee of Safety, but those that sign the Association Soon this Convention and acknowledge the authority of the Committee of Safety.

46th Voted Col. Benj.a Carpenter of Guilford do notify Guilford Windsor & Halifax. Capt. Francis Whitmore of Marlborough notify Draper, Cumberland, Marlborough & Brattleborough Lieut. Lemuel Spalding of Dummerston & Capt. Sam.l Fletcher notify Townsend Putney, Newfane, & Dummerston Mr. Ebenezar Hoisington of Windsor notify Windsor, Hertford, Woodstock, Hartford, & Cornish. Nath.l Robinson Esqr. of Westminster notify Westminster & Weathersfield Dott. Reuben Jones of Rockingham notify Rockingham & Springfield Edward Aiken of Kent notify Kent and Chester.

47th Voted to adjourn this Convention to Wednesday the 30th Inst. next to be held at the Court House in Westminster at 10 o'Clock in the Forenoon.

Joseph Bowker J. Chairman

Attest Jonas Gray Clerk

A Copy from the Original

New Hampshire Grants
Westminster Court House } Octobr 30th 1776 Convention
Opened according to Adjournment.

Present the following Members.

Rinnington } Nathan Clark Esqr
Manchester } Col.o Wm Marsh
Lottet } Capt. Wm Fitch
Rutland } Capt Joseph Bowker
Colchester } Capt Ira Allen
Marlborough } Capt Francis Whitmore
Windsor } Mr Ebenezer Norington
Hertford } Mr Edward Ames
Newbingham } Doctr Reuben Jones
Dummerston } Lieut Leonard Spalding
Mr Joseph Hildreth
Westminster } Mr Joshua Webb
Mathw Robinson Esqr
Brumley } Capt Wm Wiley
Townshend } Capt Sam.l Shelden
Putney } Capt Lemuel Lovland
Chester } Col.o Thomas Chandler

1st Voted Capt. Ira Allen Clerk.

2d Voted that Nathaniel Robinson Esqr Mr Solomon Phelps & Col.o William Marsh be a Committee to get the Clerk of the County Committee of Safety for this County and get the Return of s.d Committee concerning sending Delegates to the Convention of the State of New York.

3d Voted that Mr Ebenezar Norington, Mr Joshua Webb, Capt Ira Allen Capt William Fitch, & Doctr Reuben Jones be a Committee to draw a Plan for further Proceedings of this Convention, and make report as soon as may be

4th Voted to adjourn this Convention till 8 o Clock to Morrow morning to be held at this place.

Thursday Morning 8 o Clock Meeting Opened according to Adjournment

5th Voted to adjourn this Meeting one hour at this place.

Meeting opened according to adjournment.

6th Voted that Doctr Reuben Jones & Colo William Marshall
Committee to invite Capt. Clay & Doctr Day to sit with
this Convention as spectators.

7th Voted to adjourn this Convention till 8 o Clock tomorrow
Morning at this place.

Friday Morning 8 o Clock Meeting opend according
to adjournment.

Report of the Committee of Proceedings.

It is the Opinion of this Committee that by ~~[illegible]~~ the Reasons of the Incursions of the Enemy, and that the Militia of this State have lately been called and are now going to the Relief of their distressed brethren at Tyonderoga and the Northern Frontiers of this State, and that several of the Members of this Convention are more immediately called on to the relief of their families & which have so far taken up our attention, and the attention of the people at Large that we have not collated the full Sentiments of the People

It is not proper therefore to proceed to compleat the Petition to the Honble the Grand Council of the United States of America or to fill up the Committee for that purpose of delivering the Petition.

That an Answer be made to a Pamphlet dated the 2d October 1776 and sent from Hatton by the Provincial Congress of the State of New York, to the County of Cumberland and with the Answer a Pamphlet setting forth the Advantages that would arise to the People at large on the District of the New Hampshire Grants by forming into a seperate State. be wrote printed and Communicated to the inhabitants as soon as may be. That a Manifesto be sent in the Publick News Papers setting forth the Reasons in as few terms as they can choose to Correspond with the New York

The aforesaid Report is humbly Presented to the Honble by

Order of the Committee

Wm. Hilton Chairman

8th Voted to accept of the above Report.

9th Voted that a Petition be Drawn to send to the hon.ble Provincial Congress of the State of New York Requesting their approbation for the District of the N.Hampshire Grants to form themselves into a State seperate from N.York

10th Voted that Col.o William Marsh, Capt.n Ira Allen & Mr. Nelson Chelsea be a Committee to make the above Writings

11th Voted that Major Abijah Lovejoy, Col.o Wm. Marsh, Capt.n Ira Allen, Col.o Jacob Bailey, Mr. Solomon Chelsea, Major Joseph Tyler, Col.o [redacted] Benjamin Carpenter, Mr. Benjamin Emmons, Elijah Hunt Doct.r Ruben Jones & Mr. Daniel Jewett be a Committee to go through Cumberland & Glocester Counties to carry the Proceedings of this Convention and to compleat getting the Associations formed by this Convention sign'd and Collected by the Clerk of this Convention at their next sitting.

12th Voted that it be and it is hereby Recommended to each Member of this Convention to Assist the Above Committee as much as in their Lies.

13th Voted that Doct.r Jonathan Gay be added to the Committee to carry the Above Petition.

14th Voted that Solomon Phelps Write a Letter to Col.o Jacob Bailey desiring him to Assist the Above Committee.

15th Voted to Adjourn this Convention to the third Wednesday of January next at 10 o'Clock in the Morning to be held at the Place

Attest Jra Allen Clk.

Joseph Brown Chairman

A true Copy from the Original

Compared by

N. Hampshire Grants
West Minster Court House } January 25th 1777 Convention opened
According to Adjournment

Present the following Members

Capt. Joseph Bowker in the Chair

1st Voted Lt. Reuben Jones Clerk Pro Tempore

	Nathan Clark Esqr	Townshend	Capt Samuel Fletcher
Bennington	Capt. John Burnham	Chester	Col. Thoman Chandler
	Mr. Nathan Clark Junr	Rockingham	Doctr. Reuben Jones
Manchester	Lieut Martin Powell		Lieut Moses Right
Castleton	Capt John Hall	Windsor	Mr. Ebenezar Hovington
Williston	Col. Thos. Chittenden	Hartford	Mr. Stephen Silsbey
Colchester	Capt Ira Allen	Woodstock	Mr. Benjamin Emmons
Rutland	Capt Joseph Bowker	Norwich	Major Thomas Lockwood
	Capt Herman Allen	Cornwall	Jacob Barton By a Letter from d. Town
Dummerston	Lieut Leonard Spalding		Voting for a New State
Putney	Lieut Dennis Lockland	Bernhard	By Letter & Vote
Westminster	Nath. Stevens Esqr	Royalton	By Vote & Ditto
	Mr. Jonna Webb		

2d Voted to adjourn this Convention to eight o'clock to Morrow Morning at this place.

Thursday 8 o'clock Convention joined according to Adjournment

Major Joseph Williams & Lieut Nathl. Kelley from Lowndes Took their Seats

3d Voted Doctr. Reuben Jones be an Assistant Clerk to Capt Ira Allen he attending at this time being present.

4th Voted that Lieut Leonard Spalding Mr. Ebenezar Hovington Major Thomas Murdock be a Committee to examine into the Members that have Voted for the District of the N. Hampshire Grants to be a separate State from N. York and how many is known to be against it; and make Report to this Convention as soon as may be.

Report of s.d Committee

Upon strict Examination that more than three fourths

of the People in Cumberland and Glocester Counties that
have Acted one for a New State the Inhabitants at Newsom
by Order of Committee
Ebenezer Herrington Chairman

5th Voted to adjourn this Convention one hour at this place
Convention opened at time and place.

6th Voted N.C.D. that the District of Land commonly called and
known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants be a
and Separate New State and for the future to Conduct themselves as such.

7th Voted that Nathan Clark Esq.r, Mr. Ebenezer Herrington, Capt.
John Burnham, Mr. Jacob Burton & Col.o Thomas Chittenden be
a Committee to prepare a Draught for a Declaration for a New
Separate State; and report to this Convention as soon as may be.

8th Voted that Capt. Jonathan Allen, Col.o Thomas Chandler, Doct.r Reed
Jones, Mr. Stephen Sibley & Mr. Nathan Clark Jun.r be a Committee
to draw a Plan for further Proceedings; & report to this Convention
as soon as may be.

9th Voted to adjourn this Convention to eight o'clock to Morrow
Morning at this place.

Friday Morning Convention opened according
to Adjournment.

The Committee Appointed to bring in a Draught
of a Declaration setting forth the Right the Inhabitants of
that District of Land commonly called and known by the Name
of the New Hampshire Grants have to form themselves into a
State or Independent Government do make the following
Report to the Honorable Convention Convened at Westminster
January 15th A.D. 1777 viz.

That Whereas the Honorable

64. Right 1. That whenever Protection is withheld, no Allegiance is due nor can the right be demanded.

2d That whenever the Lives and Properties of a part of the Community have been Manifestly aimed at by either the Legislative or Executive Authority of such Community, Necessity requires a Seperation. Your Committee are of Opinion that the foregoing has for many Years past been the conduct of the Monopolizing Land Traders of the Colony of New York, and that they have not only been countenanced but encouraged by both the Legislative and Executive Authority of said State or Colony.

Many Overt Acts in evidence of this Truth are so Fresh in the minds of the Members that it would be needless to recite them.

And whereas the Congress of the Several States did on Congress on the 15th May 1776 in a Similar case pass the following Resolution Viz.t

"Resolved therefore that it be recommended to the respective Assemblies and conventions of the United Colonies, where no Government is sufficient to the Exigencies of their affairs has been hereto before established such Government as shall in the Opinion of the Representatives best conduce to the Happiness & Safety of their constituents in particular and America in Generally."

Extract from the Minutes

Charles Thompson Sec.y

Your Committee having duly deliberated on the conduct of the Authority of N.York before recited and the Equitableness on which the aforesaid Resolution of Congress, and considering that a just Right exists in the people to adopt Measures for their own Security, not only to enable them to secure their Rights against the Usurpations of Great Britain but also against that of N.York, and the Several other Governments claiming any Jurisdiction of this Territory do offer the following Declaration Viz.t

This Convention (whose Members are duly Chosen by the free Voice of their Constituents in the Several Towns on the N.Hampshire Grants) in Public Meeting Assembled, in our own Name and in behalf of our Constituents. Do hereby Proclaim and Publickly declare that the District of Territory comprehending and Usually Known by the Name and description of the N.Hampshire Grants of Right ought to be and are hereby declared forever hereafter to be

be considered as a Separate Free and
Independant Jurisdiction or State by the Name & Title
be forever hereafter called and Known and distinguished
by the Name of New Connecticut Alias Vermont
and that the Inhabitants that shall at present or shall
May hereafter May become residents either by Procreation
or Emmigration within said Territory shall be
Intitled to the same Priveledges, Immunities and Impun-
-ities as is Allowed, and on such Conditions
and in the same Manner as the present Inhabitants
in future shall or may enjoy; which are and forever
shall be considered to be such Priveledges and Immunities
as the free Citizens and Denizons which May at any
Time hereafter be Allowed to any such Inhabitants of any of
the Free and Independant States of America and that such
Priveledges and Immunities shall be regulated on a
Bill of Rights and by a form of Government to be
Established at the Next Session adjourned of this Convention

10th Voted N. C. D. to accept of the above Declaration.

To the Honorable the Chairman & Gentlemen
of the Convention.

Your Committee appointed to take into Consi-
deration what is further Necessary to be Enacted at this
Present Convention.

Beg Leave to Report, (viz)

That proper Information be given to the Honorable
Continental Congress of the United States of America the Reasons
Why the New Hampshire Grants have been Declared a free
State and pray the said Congress to Grant said State a Repre-
sentation in Congress; and that Agents be appointed to
Transfer the same to the said Congress; or the Committee be
Filled up that are abroad Appointed; and that a Committee be
appointed to Draw the Draught. That a Committee of three

the assembled on the East side of the Mountains
to be in Conjunction with the Committee of War on the
West side of the Mountains to Act on all Proper occasions
that some suitable Measures be taken to Govern our
Internal Police for the time being Until more suitable
Measures can be taken. That some suitable way be taken
to Raise a Sum of money to defray the Charges of the Agents
that is to go to Congress; and for Printing the Proceedings
of this Convention which we are of opinion ought to
be Printed.

All which is humbly submitted to the
Convention by Your Committee

By Order of Committee

Thomas Chandler Chairman

11th Voted N.H.D. to accept of the above Report.

12th Voted that the Declaration of New Connecticut be
inserted in the News Papers.

13th Voted that Capt Herman Allen, Colo Thomas Chandler and
Nathan Clark Esqr be a Committee to Prepare the Declaration
for the Press as soon as may be.

14th Voted that Doctr Jonathan Hay Colo Thomas Chittenden Doctr Reuben
Jones, Colo Jacob Bailey & Capt Herman Allen be the Delegates
to Carry the Remonstrance & Petition to the Honble Continental
Congress and further to Negociate Business in behalf of New
Connecticut.

16th Voted that Major Thomas Chandler, Mr Stephen Elder Mr Ebenezer
Norington, Mr Joshua Webb, Lieut Dennis Lockland, Mr Jotham
Bigelow, Colo Thomas Johnson, Mr Elijah Gates & Nathaniel White
be a Committee of War already Chosen. to Act in Conjunction with the Committee of

4th Votes

17th Voted that Mr. Recommended to each Town in ye
and Gloucester Counties to Choose new Committee's of Safety
where the Towns are dissatisfied with the Committees and di-
rect Towns to Let the Committees stand for the time being.

18th Voted that Capt Hezekiah Allen, Docr Jonathan Hazzard Jonathan
Webb & Major Thomas Monduke be a Committee to Procure
each one hundred Dollars or to defray the expences the
Delegates that are appointed to go to the Continental Congress
according to the Report of the Committee of Proceedings

19th Voted that Mr. Ebenezer Hennington, Mr. Benja Emmons,
Lieut Leonard Hedges & Mr. Ithiel Elden be a Committee
to draw a Letter to Lidding the Delegates from Cumberland
County setting in the Provincial Congress of the
State of New York.

20th Voted that the Committee that are to make the above Draught
are impowered to annex the Chairman name by order of
the Convention.

21st Voted that it is the Advice of this Convention that
each Town in this State would send Deputies or Delegates
to the Convention at their next setting. Those Towns that
have not chose any, to chuse and send.

Westminster 14th Jany 1777

Gentlemen

The General Convention consisting
of Delegates from the several Counties Towns Districts &
Tract of Land known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants
have Met according to Adjournment at Westminster the 16th Inst
and have Resolved and Declared the above District of Land
State

shall hereafter be a distinct State or Government and the Inhabitants thereof have full Authority to make such Laws as they shall from time to time think fit.

The said Convention therefore desire and request that You will on sight hereof withdraw Yourselves from the Convention of the State of New York and appear there no more in the Character of Representatives for the County of Cumberland; as you were not Chosen by a Majority of the People at large.

Gentlemen I am your most Obedient Humble Servant

Ebenezer Stoughton } Chairman Sub Committee

By order of Convention

Joseph Bowker } Chairman

22d. Voted to adjourn this Convention to the first Wednesday of June next to be held at the Meeting House in Windsor at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

By Order of Convention

Joseph Bowker } Chairman

Messrs John Sessions & Simeon Stephens

Attest Ira Allen } Clerk

A true Copy from the Original Compared by

New Hampshire Grants Cataloni } June 4th 1777 Convention open
New Connecticut, Windsor } according to Adjournment.

Present the following Members.

Capt. Joseph Bowker in the Chair

Attest Lieutenant Martin Powel Assistant Clerk.

Bennington { Nathan Clark Esqr.
Mr. Simeon Stathaway
Capt. John Burnham
Doctr. Jonai Fay

Shaftsbury { Major Jeremiah Clark
Mr. Gideon Olin

Arlington { Capt. Ebenezer Willoughby
Mr. Abel Benedict

Sunderland { Lieut. Joseph Bradley
Mr. Eli Brownson

Manchester { Mr. Thomas Bull
Lieut. Martin Powell

Dorset { Mr. Cesthan Trent

Rearport { Doctr. Gorin Smith
Mr. Moses Robinson

Pawlet { Capt. William Fitch
Capt. Jonathan Hilliard

Wells { Mr. Caleb Smith

Poultney { Capt. Zebediah Dewey
Lieut. Abijah Throop

Castleton { Lieut. Benjamin Simmons
Lieut. Benjamin Simmons a New Right

Rutland { Mr. Jesse Churchill

Danby { Capt. William Gage

Tinmouth { Capt. Ebenezer Allen

Clarendon { Benja. Spencer Esqr Colo.
Whitefield Foster Lieut.
Joseph Smith Minor
Stephen Place Lieut.

Rutland { Lt. Col. Jotham Sessions
Capt. Joseph Bowker

Pittsford { Capt. Jona. Hastett

Neshobe { Capt. Josiah Powers

Whiting { Capt. Josiah Powers

Cornwal { Mr. Jam. Lawrence

Colchester { Capt. Ira Allen
Capt. Heman Allen

Wittiston { Colo. Jno. Christy Enden

Willmington { Mr. Wm. Millen

Halifax { Doctr. Wm. Hill

Guilford { Colo. Benja. Carpenter
Capt. John Barney

Brattleborough { Lt. Col. Israel Smith

Townshend { Mr. John Boyer

Dummerston { Lt. Leonard Spalding

Putney { Mr. Denis Lockwood

Westminster { Mr. Peter Robinson

Rockingham { Doctr. Reuben Jones

Chester { Lt. Jabez Serjeant

Vienna { Mr. Edward Aikins

Cavendish { Capt. John Coffin

Brimley { Capt. Wm. Utley

Windsor

Windsor } Mr. Ebenezer Hovington
Hartford } Majr. Joel Matthews
} Mr. Wm. Gallop
Woodstock } Mr. Benja. Lummerds
Hartford } Colo. Joseph Mark
} Mr. Stephen Tilden
Farmington } John [illegible]
} John Winchester Dona Esqr.
Bernard } Mr. Asa Whitcomb
} Mr. Asa Cheadle
} Colo. Peter Olcott
Norwich } Majr. Tho. Moredak
} Mr. Jacob Burton
} Jerl. Mainard Esqr.
Sharon } Mr. Daniel Gilbert

Stratford } Lt. Abner Chamberlain
Stratford } Mr. Frederick Smith
Fairfield } Mr. Amos Woodworth
} Doctr. Bildad Andrus
Moorton } Mr. Benja. Baldwin
Corinth } by a Letter Agreeing
} in effect

Newberry } Mr. John G. Bailey
} Capt. Robert Johnson
Reading } Mr. Andrew Sherwood

Stone Stone Dr.

Jonathan Safford Esqr.
Son
Son, certain
Safford

This day 6 of April in the year
of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred twenty [redacted] nine in the
seventeenth year of my age I
Commence keeping at Stanford

Hiram Safford

May the 31st 1824

	John Stone Dr. to drawing four loads of boards from mills Settled	$ 2	00
May 31	John Stone Dr. to one days work making fence Settled		50
Aug. 15	Horace Safford Dr. to thirteen days work & keeping & harvesting Settled	$ 9	75
Sept 20	Charles Safford Dr. to two days work & harvesting rye	$ 1	50
Aug. 23	Paid Elisha Allen two dollars 25 cents on Horace Safford account Settled	$ 2	25
Oct. 16	Mason Evans Dr. to work myself and team		75
Nov. 1	H. Eye Dr. to work myself and team		75
Nov. 11	Harry Weeks Dr. to work myself and team	$ 1	00
Dec. 1	Sec. J. Rowley Dr. to drawing timber to Bellisters mill Settled	$	50
Dec. 18	Robt. S. Blossom Dr. to one days work myself and team Settled	$ 1	00
1825 January	Samuel Wright jun. Dr. to three days work drawing wood Settled	$ 3	00
Feb. 6	Sec. J. Rowley Dr. to drawing logs to the sawmill Settled	$	50
Feb 24	David Tryon Dr. one days work drawing wood. Put on the [illegible] book	$ 1	00
March 29	Horace Wright Dr. to half days work drawing wood to the gristmill Settled		37
March 30	Horace Wright Dr. to drawing three sleds from Skinners store Settled		25

April 1 — Jerm Wright Dr. to half days work saweing wood for the oilmill Settled — 25

April 13 — Joseph Short Dr. one bushel and a half of rye — 1 50

April 18 — David Goodrich Cr. four bushels and a half of oats — —

April 22 — David Goodrich Cr. 5 qrs of hay — —

April 27 — Paid Chellis Safford twenty one dollars and eighty seven cents — 21 87

May 15 — Estes Cook Dr. four hours and thirty two ~~feet~~ of boards —

May 16 — Mason Evens Dr. to one bushel of oats of corn Settled — 31

May 30 — Joseph Percival Dr. to blowing the Holmes garden — 50

June 3 — Estes Cook Dr. to five hundred and seventy five feet of boards —

June 8 — Jerm Wright Dr. to one days work Shearing sheep Settled —

July 2 — David Goodrich Dr. to Harvesting oats one day and a half — Settled —

Aug. 2 — Daniel goodrich Dr. to two days work Haying — Settled — 3 00

Aug. 11 — Jerm Wright Dr. to two days ½ work haying Settled —

Aug. 21 — Lt J Rowley Dr. to laving a hose one half day — Settled —

Sept 1 — Daniel Goodrich Dr. to binding oats and setting up corn — Settled — 50

3

Sept 12 David Goodrich Dr to one bag of Salt — 50

Sept 15 Samuel Wright Jr Dr to one barrel of cider — 75

Sept 29 Moses Evans Jr Dr to one load of wood — 75

Sept 30 David Goodrich Dr to drawing corn and stalks — 1.00

Oct 2 Samuel Wright Dr to two bushels and seven quarts of flax seed — 1.00

Oct 9 David Goodrich Dr to drawing pumpkins — 87

Oct 12 John Hughs Dr to one bushels and a half of apples Settled — 75

Oct 13 Lee & Bowley Dr. to one days work drawing water Settled

Oct 14 David Dryon Dr to one days work drawing dirt Out of Mother book 1 25

Oct 17 Warren Hitchcock Dr to ten bushels of oats at 25 cents per bushel — 2 50

Oct 18 Lyman Hascworth Dr to three bushels of apples — Settled — 37½

Oct 22 David Dryon Dr to a horse and wagon one half day — on Book 1

Oct Settled James Knox Dr to 15 bundles of Straw

Oct 12 David Goodrich Dr to drawing corn to Factory

12
60

Nov 8	Joseph Upham Dr. to hauling the cheese one half day		25
Nov 14	~~Settled~~ David Goodrich Dr. to one half days work butchering and the use of the oxen to draw wood		~~62~~
Nov 17	Settled Lee J Rowley Dr. to two days work and large half day Settled	1	~~37~~
Nov 18	James Jones Dr. to making five barrels of cider Said to costs	1	25
Nov 19	~~Settled~~ David Goodrick Dr. to one days work making cider		~~62~~
Nov 18	Jesse Wright Dr. to drawing wood for the oilmill Settled		31
Nov 21	John Stone Dr. to drawing a load of boards from the Sawmill Settled		~~37~~
Nov 22	Levi Hayes Dr. to work myself and team one half day Settled		50
Nov 22	Lyman Ellsworth Dr. to drawing one load of bark Settled		18
Nov 31	~~Settled~~ David Goodrich Dr. to butchering		~~37~~
Dec 1	Mason Evens Dr. to one 1/4 of beef	3	25 ~~28~~
Dec 9	~~Settled~~ David Goodrich Dr. to half days work drawing out logs		~~50~~
1826			
February 4	Levi Wright Dr. to two bushels of rye	1	00
Mar 4	Jesse Wright Dr. to one months work 26 days		

March 9 David C Blossom Dr to one days work drawing logs out of the pond ——— 1.00

March 16 Z. Wright Dr to two bushels of rye ——— 1.00

April 7 Saml Lamb to two bushels of rye 1.12

April [illegible] Abel Stevens Dr to [illegible]

~~April 27~~ ~~Saml Stevens Safford one Chicken Safford account~~ ~~$ 2.75~~

Feb 27 W Lamb Dr, 2½ bf rye ——— 1.40

Feb 27 Zera Wright Dr. to 9 days work getting wood ——— 4.01

May 1 Z Wright Dr to 2 days work laying ——— 1.50

Oct 9 1827

Zera Wright account settled up to this date

Sept the 1 1825

John Monroe Dr to one hat one dollar — Paid 37 cents — 50

Sept 27 1827

Samuel Knight Dr on Balance
of the book up to this date — $4.37

This account put on Ledger book

A

Handwriting of Jonathan W. Safford, who, it is believed, made the preceding accounts.

Obtained from his Son, Joseph Safford, of Pawlet

Pawlet Oct 15th 43 1842

Summer School taught by Hellen
Salter twenty four weeks at one dollar
per week — — — — — — — — $ 24

Winter School taught by Sorah
Gilbert three months & a half at twelve
dollars per month — — — — — — — — 42

The Public money belonging to the 9th
school Dist in 1842 was. $ 41.50
Paid to J. Gilbert on the old tare 12.40
Applied on the summer scholl 14.51 26
Leaving ballance in my hands of 14.60
The 9th school Dist Dr for work 11.62 1/2
Dr to one broom and repairs $ 28 2
12.00 41.

J. W Safford Com of coll

Pawlet Feb 27th 1843
at the anual school meeting of 9th school
District Joseph Gilbert chosen moderator
J. W Safford Clerk Reuben Tobey committy
and collector voted to appropiate one
third of the public money for the use
of the summer school

J W Safford Clk

Public money for the year 1843 $ 41.48
two thirds of it to applyon the winter
School 27.66
Applied to the summer school 13 82
41.48 — 41 48

Dr. Fay's family record, made by himself.

Furnished to me by Mrs. HARRIET P. SAFFORD, of West Rupert, Vermont, widow of Edwin B., the youngest son of Dr. Jonathan Safford.

Genealogy of Jonas Fay's Family with his Wife Sarah & their births and Marriage entered on first page

Names	Who Married	Place of abode	State	County	No Males	No Females	Dis
Dott. Josiah Fay	— — —	Bennington	Vermont	Bennington	—	—	—
Ruth Fay —	Col. Alex. Brush	Vergennes	Do —	Addison	1	4	—
Polly Fay —	Hon. Hopkins	Cambridge	Do —	Franklin	3	2	
Patty Fay —	Bildad Hubbel	Do —	Do —	Do —	2	—	
Tuckey Fay	John Fay Esq.	Burlington	Do —	Chittenden	1	—	
Challis Fay	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—	—	4 Mo. Old
Challis Fay —		Absent By Lydia his Wife	—	—	—	—	
Ethan A. Fay & Heman A. Fay } Lydia Fay	Twins	Bennington	Vermont	Bennington	Unmarried		

Executed at Bennington aforesaid this 10th day of Oct 1797

Taken from Original Record

By Jonas Fay } Father of Children

Reverse side of same sheet. Record of Dr. Safford's family, made also by Dr. Fay.

Genealogy of Dott. Jonathan Safford's Family & he was Married to Dillie Blatherman Janry 14th A Domino. 1790. —

Children and the Date of their several births viz.t

Laura Safford Born March 2d 1792. } Resident in Pawlet County of Rutland & State of Vermont.
Annis — do — Do — February 13th 94 }
Challis — do — do — October — 3d 96. }

Entered 10th October 1797

Genealogy of Challis Safford's Family & he was Married to Betsey Doty aged about 24 Years December 1st AD 1796

Childs Age viz.t

Harriet Safford Born June 17th 1797. —

Patriotic letter from Dr. Jonas Fay, recently purchased from a New York collector and presented to the Vermont Historical Society. C.

Pawlet 5th June 1810

Friend Merril

I should address You more frequently, were it not That, my place of residence is placed 7 miles north of the post office in place. — I need not attempt to place before You the situation of Political concerns, as You are possess'd with all the means of knowledge, and perhaps more, than I am in duly with. Permit Sir, however to Indulge ~~me~~ in the Satisfaction I enjoy with You and Others, in the prosperous and promising Train in which I conceive them to be plac'd. I don't by any means consider That there is not Virtue enough in the People To support a Rebublic form of Government. History, either Ancient, Oriental, Modern, or Verbal don't furnish an example in which a nation was conceiv'd, nourish'd and brought into the world so purfectly Legitimate, as the Nation of America. we have no cause of Shame, or disgrace attach'd to an inquiry our parents, They are as Ancient as Man, & their names were Liberty and equal Rights, and no Nation on Earth can boast a fairer origin. — We have much said in public and private about the fall and destruction of Ancient Republics in Europe and many argue from that circumstance that it must be our fate — I consider our circumstances to differ materially from those of the Rebublics of Europe in two Instances, first we are saved every day with all the proceeds of Gov. from many able pens on both, may every side of the subject, which in fact was not the case with former European Govts of a Republican kind, and Secondly the first Emigrants and Settlers in America fled from oppression so that the Rights of Man as an Individual and in Society have been most scrupulously watch'd with a Steady and penetrating Eye from the landing of the first emigrants in America To the present moment, and will continue with a Rapid encrease for Centuries Yet to come — Enemies to the Republic may rage, Office hunters may despise disappointed Men may Revile, Tories may Columniate, lie, Slander and attempt to Abuse, it will all be in Vain, They need not call on the National Treasurer for pay for their trouble, but Only

Yet

I'll carry at home with Arms folded, & Envies disappointment in full ballance for all their extraordinary expences.

on this principle Sir, I conceive that there was originally Virtue in the people sufficient to support the form of Govt. under which by the Auspicious Smiles and benevolence of Heaven we have been so happily placed. ——— If any should determine a want in the people at large, of such Virtue I beg to know from such, what Virtue enough is to be found to support Civil Government. If not Virtue enough in the whole, can that Virtue be found in an Individual of the whole?

I am of Opinion that, the Inhabitants of the Nation of America are almost Universally agreed in respect to the Mode of Govt. under which we are so happily plac'd but disputes arise from various Sources in respect to the Mode of Administering it. complaints are frequently in the public prints that there is a want of sufficient Ability, or energy in our public councils to gratify the wishes of the Impatient. I sincerely wish such to reflect on the Improbability that the Senate of Seventeen States should on One and the same day make Choice of a Majority of Members to legislate for them, in whome the most approv'd confidence could and Ought to be placed;

I am inclin'd on this minute & must attend

Convention Provincial Affairs &

politicks to accept the affectionate Salute for self Family Mother Son. Family &c of

Your Friend sincerely

Jona. Frey

Points Established by the Investigation.

* * *

There are three queries in regard to this manuscript to which answers, well supported by proof, can be given:

First.—Is this the record which Hon. James H. Phelps copied, and from which copy our record in the Governor and Council and in the Historical Society's Collections is printed?

There is no trace of any other record as an original or certified copy.

Governor Hall, in his Vindication, states: "The copy, as Judge Phelps informed the Committee, was made by him in 1852* from the back part of an old account book in which Doctor Jonas Fay, who had been clerk of some of the conventions, had made charges against his patients for medical services."

Mr. Dawson says: "I took it out of Jonas Fay's old store ledger."† The record herewith presented is from a book in which farm accounts had been kept. It is natural to suppose that neither Mr. Phelps nor Mr. Dawson gave any particular attention to the character of the accounts. All statements agree that the record was in an account book. From these facts, and from the fact that there is no trace of any other record as an original or certified copy, and from all the collateral circumstances, I think the identity of the record in the "old account book" Mr. Phelps mentions and Mr. Dawson's record from Doctor Fay's "store ledger" with the present record and farm accounts sufficiently well established.

Second.—Is this the manuscript offered by Mr. Dawson to the New York State Library in 1883–5 *and* 1886?

There can be no doubt of this. The number of pages is the same. Mr. George R. Howell, then acting Librarian of the New York State Library, in his official record of the offer made October 20, 1886, says: "September 29, 1886, Mr. H. B. Dawson of Morrisania offered to sell to the New York State Library a manuscript of forty-one pages folio (written on an ordinary account book)," etc.

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* It may be noted here that Governor Hall refers to Mr. Phelps' copy as made in 1852, while in the Historical Society Collections and in the Governor and Council the date is given in a quotation from Mr. Phelps, appended to the manuscript, as "copied from the original record November 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1862."

I am inclined to the opinion that 1862 is the correct date, because it is given with particularity of month and day, and these publications were prior to Governor Hall's Vindication, and it would be natural to suppose if a mistake of ten years had occurred in the date, that Governor Hall would have referred to the earlier mistakes in giving the date 1852, as he did.

† He did *take* it, as will be seen by Mrs. Safford's letter on page 15.

Again, the notations made by Mr. Howell at the time in his library copy of the printed record in the first volume of the Vermont Historical Society Collections of the variations between the Dawson manuscript and the printed record agree with the differences between the foregoing lithographs and that record.

The loose covers enclosing the sheets bear the official stamp "N. Y. State Library," but the record never belonged to that Library. How then did its stamp come upon these loose covers? Mr. Dawson sent the manuscript to that Library in 1886 to be examined with a view to purchase. When returned October 20, the letter notifying him of the return says it has been sent "in secure outer wrappers." It has been the custom of that Library to use old book covers for securing packages in transmission, and the Librarian and assistants say there can be little doubt that this accounts for the covers now enclosing the manuscript in the Library of Congress. A careful examination of them shows that they are a little too small to have been the covers of the original book.

That the number of the pages is the same can hardly be a coincidence, and this fact with the collateral substantiating evidence must be considered as sufficient proof on this point, and to fix beyond question the whereabouts of this record from the time it came into Mr. Dawson's hands to the present, a period of nearly forty years.

Third.—Is this the original and official record of the proceedings of these meetings or conventions?

Is this not a fair presumption, since there is no trace of any other? Doctor Fay was the clerk of all the Conventions up to that held at Westminster October 30, 1776. This was an adjournment from the Convention of September 25th at Dorset, and all subsequent meetings were by adjournment, so that had Doctor Fay been present he would have been clerk by reason of election at the prior Convention, of which these were adjourned meetings. The clerks of these meetings were then, under parliamentary practice, clerks *pro tempore.* Is it improbable that for this reason Doctor Fay was considered the chief clerk of all the Conventions, and that the minutes of all were finally turned over to him to make the formal record? Why should Doctor Fay write out in a book at this great length a copy of the record from a complete original in due form? May not his attestation "a true copy, examined," etc., mean merely a copy from the minutes hastily taken during the Convention? Moreover, at each Convention reports of committees or other papers were presented which the clerk could not of course record during the proceedings, but would copy when he made his official record later. This would give a reason for his attestation. In examining

other papers of Doctor Fay's I find it a common habit with him to make some form of attestation, even where it would not seem to be required.

His rubric is characteristic and never to be mistaken, and, wherever found, is conclusive evidence of his hand. He had the habit of attaching it sometimes to other signatures, as on page 30, after the name of Jonathan Willard, and at the bottom of page 38, and on page 41, after the name of Joseph Woodward. But with his habit of exactness he would not have attached it to a copy if it was not on the original. So if this is a copy it is a copy from his own original, which is hardly supposable.

So much had been written in support of my belief that this is the original record, and it was about to go to the printer when a piece of evidence was found that stopped it in time and made certain what was but a probability. Doctor Samuel Williams, in his second edition of the History of Vermont, published in 1809, gives, in an appendix (No. VIII) to the second volume, "Proceedings of the Convention that declared the Independence of Vermont." I noticed at the close of this record in the appendix, on the top of page 453, that he gives his authority in very fine type:

"*Original records of the convention, p. 62–68;*
in the hands of Jonas Fay, of Bennington."

Reference to the manuscript shows that pages 62–68 give the record of that Convention, and this evidence will, I believe, be deemed conclusive that Doctor Williams took this chapter of the appendix from the original records in the hands of Doctor Fay, who was then living. Submitting this item of proof to Mr. Benedict, he adds a paragraph to his letter, and says:

"It is to my mind incontestable evidence that Williams copied the proceedings from Dr. Fay's book, and knew that the book contained the original records."

Mr. Benedict was previously of the opinion that the original record might have been in the hands of Ira Allen. Professor Goodrich, of the University of Vermont, adds to a letter upon another matter:

"Permit me to express my deep interest in your discovery of a missing portion of the early records of Vermont. As I have had occasion to handle those records recently, permit me to say that there seems to me to be no doubt that you have found the original entries, and you and the State are to be congratulated."

I give a line from Judge Wheeler in full:

"BRATTLEBORO, *January* 14, 1904.

MY DEAR SIR: I thank you for your very interesting letter. The statement by Dr. Williams as to the whereabouts of the record of the Westminster Convention, referring to it by pages corresponding so exactly with the book, seems to show very conclusively that the book is the original and true record of all the proceedings it purports to cover. I had no doubt of this before, but it is quite satisfactory to see this further full proof. I notice that in the first edition of that work Dr. Fay is referred to, at page 232, as the proper certifying clerk, as well as at page 169 of Vol. 2 of the second. This would, of course, be before 1794 as to the first edition, and 1808 as to the second, when Dr. Williams would know all about these things, and long before Dr. Fay went to or to the north of Pawlet. I am glad you are doing such thorough work about this very interesting subject.

Yours very truly,

HOYT H. WHEELER.

Senator PROCTOR."

The evidence and the authority of these endorsements upon it are such that it cannot be questioned that this is the original and official record of those important Conventions made by Dr. Fay, and retained by him during his life.

The above was in type and the proof corrected for the final print when a discovery was made only less in importance than the one establishing the fact that this is the original record.

Diligent inquiry had been made of Mr. Joseph Safford at the old Safford homestead in Pawlet, and in other places, for Dr. Fay's old ledger or account-book, without result. I had in December written Mrs. Harriet P. Safford, of West Rupert, Vermont, widow of Edwin B. Safford, the youngest son of Doctor Jonathan Safford, asking her to make search for this book which Jonathan W. Safford, her husband's brother, had at one time; but not receiving a reply for some weeks, I had given up the slight expectation that it would be found there, when I received a very important letter from her, dated January 21, in which she says:

"I think perhaps the ledger you refer to and dated 1784 is in my possession. Some 25 or possibly 35 years ago a gentleman called at my husband's store. Said he was looking up the genealogy of the Safford family and Doctor Fay, and in some way had heard of this account book which had a number of pages of family records, and wished to take the book. Said he would return it all right by express. It was returned by express, but the records had been cut out. Mr. Safford said the man ought to be prosecuted for taking the records, but he did nothing about it, for he was fully occupied with his store

and postoffice. I do not know the name or address of the man who took the ledger. I am quite sure he said his wife was a Safford."

I immediately wrote Mrs. Safford, sending her a proof-sheet of my statement so she might see Mr. Dawson's letters, and asking that the book be sent me. The ledger was promptly sent by express with two small books that were returned with the ledger by the man who took it. In her letter accompanying she says:

"I was much surprised that Mr. Dawson should claim that he paid for the manuscript he removed from the ledger, for it is not correct. He at first wished to see the ledger—then asked to take it. At first Mr. Safford hesitated to let a stranger take it, but Mr. Dawson talked so fair that he would return it by express without injury, etc., that my husband let him take it. When it was returned the important documents had been cut out, very much to Mr. Safford's sorrow and disgust. He said that Mr. Dawson ought to be prosecuted, but as that would take his time and attention from his business, and the missing leaves might not be obtainable he let it go. * * * I perfectly remember the one who took the ledger resided in Morrisania, but his name had gone from me. I cannot give date when he took it, but during the first half dozen years of my married life, I think, perhaps 1868, or 70, or near there." * * *

In reply to a second letter from me she writes, under date of February 12:

"DEAR FRIEND: Yours of the 10th received. When Mr. Dawson came here he first inquired to see the old ledger. Said he had ferreted it out and located it here. After looking it over he seemed much pleased that it was just what he had been looking for, and asked the privilege of taking it to Morrisania. Mr. Safford objected, but said he might copy the records. Mr. Dawson said he had not the time to spare then, but if Mr. Safford would let him take it home he would take the best of care of it and return it by express in a few weeks. It was returned by express in the given time. He wrote a letter saying he had taken the records from the ledger, but had not defaced in any way the newspaper clippings of his (Mr. Safford's) dear departed wife, for they must be very sacred to him. Mr. Dawson did not pay nor apologize for taking the records, but wrote as though it was very praiseworthy that he did not deface the clippings.

I think Mr. Dawson's letters went into the waste basket. Mr. Safford only kept those of relatives. * * *

Yours sincerely,

HARRIET P. SAFFORD."

Mrs. Safford adds that the book may have been brought from Pawlet by the widow of Dr. Safford, her husband's mother, who spent her last days at their house in Rupert. These letters of Mrs. Safford's tell so clearly the story of a very peculiar transaction, to express it mildly, that they require no comment.

On the fly-leaf of one of the small books sent to Mr. Safford by Mr. Dawson is this inscription:

"H. B. Dawson, Esq., with regards of
Wm. A. Hammond, New York, Dec. 7, 1866."

The title of the book is "ON WAKEFULNESS. WITH AN INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF SLEEP," by Doctor William A. Hammond, formerly Surgeon-General of the Army. The inscription is in Doctor Hammond's handwriting, and the book was evidently a presentation copy to Mr. Dawson from the author. Mr. Dawson says in his letter to the New York State Library of October 25, 1886, that he paid "one hundred dollars for the privilege of taking these leaves out of the store-ledger of Doctor Jonas Fay;" and in another place he speaks of having obtained it "at a heavy cost, in money and books." There can be no question about the truthfulness of Mrs. Safford's statement that he paid nothing except three very small books, the total value of which could not have been more than one dollar.

The uniformity of Mr. Dawson's conduct in this whole transaction is characteristic. The manner in which he obtained this manuscript may account for the fact that he did not for years make any claim to its ownership or possession. When he published it he made no mention of how he came by it, and he did not till nearly twenty years after he obtained it, when he offered to sell it to the New York State Library.

Mr. van Laer says in a recent letter:

"What you found on the fly-leaf of Dr. Hammond's book on Wakefulness, inscribed to Dawson, is exceedingly interesting and confirms my first theory, based on Judge Phelps' and Mr. Dawson's statements, that the manuscript must have been acquired by Dawson directly from the Saffords after Judge Phelps had made his copy. * * * Judge Wheeler's statements and the correspondence between Judge Phelps and Henry Stevens had lately inclined me to another view, but it seems now that both Mr. Phelps and Dawson must be taken literally, with this exception, that Mr. Dawson did not obtain the sheets 'at a heavy cost, in money and books.'"

The ledger accounts are all in Dr. Fay's own hand, containing entries running from 1782 to 1809. For the first part of this time he resided at Bennington, then at Charlotte, and for the last years at Pawlet. The accounts are for professional services, with many entries of "sundries," and occasionally one that would look like a store account, as "To pair of shoes," "To one quire writing paper," etc. There are a few later day-book entries by Jonathan W. Safford, who made the accounts in the lithographic sheets herewith. The book answers perfectly the reference given by Mr. Phelps, Mr. Dawson,

and Governor Hall as a "store ledger" and an "account book in which Dr. Jonas Fay * * * had made charges against his patients for medical services." The paper of the manuscript and ledger is precisely the same. It is hand-made, what is called "laid paper," and the longitudinal lines, not a water mark, but somewhat like one, match precisely in width and every way. At first there seemed a slight discrepancy in the size of the pages, and that the sheets of the manuscript herewith were about one-sixteenth of an inch larger each way than those of the ledger, but a more careful measurement of many sheets shows that the sheets of the ledger vary slightly in size. Some are a trifle larger and some a trifle smaller than those of the manuscript, and the manuscript sheets have the same variation. Experts say that this is common, and to be expected in paper made and cut by hand, as this was, and are decided in their view that the sheets came from the book. An expert Government binder points out the place where apparently two forms or "signatures" were taken out and the gap coarsely mended by pasting in a piece of cloth. The manuscript paging begins with 29, while this gap follows page 20, but this can be readily accounted for. Evidently entire forms, or signatures, were taken out by Mr. Dawson, and the first eight pages thrown away. These were doubtless blank, as are the preceding twenty pages and the following twenty-eight.

These pages, both before and after the record, may have been left blank for a purpose, the latter, presumably, to complete the record of the Windsor Convention. The paging of these twenty pages and that of the manuscript sheets are clearly in the same hand. This was in the back part of the ledger, and the paging is not continued after the gap. The book was turned end for end for the accounts, and a new paging begun.

That the manuscript was taken from this ledger is settled beyond question by Mrs. Safford's statement and an examination of the ledger. It is needless to say that the proof of the genuine character of this manuscript and of its location during the whole period of its existence is a very gratifying termination of a long and somewhat laborious investigation. I am glad to say that the ledger has been obtained from Mrs. Safford, and will be deposited in the archives of the State, and I trust that before long Congress may authorize the return of the manuscript, to be lodged with the book from which it was surreptitiously taken.

Doctor Jonas Fay.

* * *

One cannot look over the hundreds of documents in Doctor Fay's hand, now to be found in the several State and national libraries, where the papers relating to our early history are deposited, without a feeling of admiration and affection for this quiet man who rendered his State and country such service. There is nowhere in his life any appearance of self-seeking, but always a readiness to serve wherever duty called. In 1756, while still residing at his birthplace in Hardwick, Mass., and only nineteen years old, he was clerk to a military company in the campaign of the French war at Fort Edward and Lake George. He was surgeon of the expedition under Allen at the capture of Ticonderoga, also for a time surgeon to Colonel Seth Warner's regiment. He was the clerk and secretary of nearly all of the early "meetings" or Conventions of the settlers of the New Hampshire grants, and member and vice-president of the Council of Safety.

He was the clerk of the meeting held at Manchester April 12, 1774, and the official notice "that any person or persons in the New Hampshire Grants, under the present situation of affairs, that have or shall presume to take commission or commissions of the peace, shall, by the grantees in general, be deemed an enemy to their country and common cause," was issued over his signature. His skill as a draftsman was universally recognized. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence on pages 64 and 65 of this manuscript, and of very many of the important papers in the controversy with New York and in the negotiations with the Continental Congress.

Others held official positions which attracted more public attention, but the impartial student of the history of the New Hampshire Grants, "New Connecticut," and the "Republic of Vermont," will admit that no man deserves higher praise for patriotism and fidelity in the conduct of affairs which culminated in the admission of the State into the Union than this modest country doctor.

An Unanswered Query.

* * *

It being settled that this is the original record, and that Mr. Dawson took it from the ledger which he obtained, as stated by Mrs. Safford, and that it passed from him to the Library of Congress, its location is established from the time it was made by Doctor Fay to the present. This leaves only one minor point undetermined.

Of whom and when did Mr. Phelps obtain the record for the purpose of making his copy? In this connection I think it important to publish two very interesting letters from Judge Wheeler, one from Mr. Benedict, and one from Mr. van Laer. They give information and views that may be helpful in future investigation. Judge Wheeler submits strong evidence in the following letter to show that Mr. Phelps copied or had this record as early as 1849:

"BRATTLEBORO, *December* 23, 1903.

MY DEAR SIR: In 1771 the Governor of the Province of New York had a census taken by the sheriffs of the several counties. Daniel Whipple lived here, and was the sheriff of Cumberland county, which included about what is now Windham and Windsor counties. He took the census of the several towns by the returns of deputies and constables.

In 1848 or '9 Henry Stevens got the papers of Daniel Whipple which included these returns, and had them with him at Judge Phelps' in West Townshend. Judge Phelps had them left in his custody long enough to take copies in consideration of such an opportunity afforded to Mr. Stevens to take copies of some papers that he had which Mr. Stevens wanted.

In 1849 and '50 Judge Phelps furnished to the 'Semi-Weekly Eagle' at Brattleboro, a series of 'Antiquarian Documents,' among them in several installments the returns made to Sheriff Whipple. In the number for November 5, 1849, is published among the 'Antiquarian Documents:'

'An Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the General Convention held at Dorset on the N. Hampshire Grants by Adjournment the 25th, 26th and 27th days of September, A. D. 1776.'

These extracts appear to be from the same records kept in the Doctor Fay Account Book, and fill about a column and a half of the paper. The paragraphs are not numbered the same; many of them are skipped in making the extract, but those that are printed show that they come from the same source. This shows that Judge Phelps had that Account Book to copy from

before that time. At first I was inclined to think that he had it from Mr. Stevens, but when he informed the Committee of the Historical Society that the book might be found with the descendants of Doctor Fay, it shows that the last he knew of it, it was somewhere there instead of with Mr. Stevens.

Judge Phelps has told me of going at about that time to Castleton to investigate the battle and retreat from Hubbardton and going from house to house to any people in the vicinity that he could find who could have known or heard anything about the circumstances, and taking down what they said in a book. That would bring him into the vicinity of where this Account Book was, and I am now inclined to think that he then found the book and had it long enough to make a copy there; and that he let Henry Stevens have a copy of his copy for the copy he took of Sheriff Whipple's returns. He talked with me several times about how he came by the Whipple returns, and he told me about that Account Book, but I cannot remember exactly how he said he got hold of it. He was very much in the habit of copying such documents, and if he found the book about the Saffords when he was making inquiry in that neighborhood, he would be very sure to copy it if they would let him.

Mr. Dawson might, of course, have procured it from Henry Stevens if Stevens had it, but in that case Judge Phelps would probably have remembered that Stevens had it, instead of having the idea that the descendants of Doctor Fay had it.

There are discrepancies between the extracts printed in the 'Eagle' and the corresponding parts of the lithographed copy of the book, but they are mainly such as would occur in copying by one person by hand from such a book. Of the authenticity of the record in the book I have no doubt. The thirty-fifth vote, on page 57, is, 'that Doctor Reuben Jones and Lieut. Leonard Spaulding wait and take the proceedings of this Convention and deliver to their Constituents.' In Lieut. Spalding's account book is this entry:

'Sept. 23 1776, an a Count of what time I spent a waiting on the convention for a Nue State I sot out for Dorset ye 23, of Sept. and Returned hom the 2d. of october. my expenses for that journey are as follows viz:

at Westminster £ – 0 – 0 – 6
at Rockingham £ – 0 – 1 –10
at Chester £ – 0 – 0 – 3
at Brumle £ – 0 – 2 –10
at Dorset £ – 0 –10 – 4
at Manchester £ – 0 – 1 –10
at Col. Bronsons £ – 0 – 0 –10
at Bennington three nights and two days a waiting for copies of ye Convention 0 – 4 – 8
on my way hom 0 – 3 – 9
and my hors the same time 1 – 6 –10.'

At the end of the extracts in the 'Eagle' is a copy of a notice signed by Col. Bowker, chairman.

These lithographed copies are very interesting and valuable, and I am glad you are bringing them out so well.

Yours very truly,

HOYT H. WHEELER.

Senator PROCTOR."

It seems evident that if Mr. Phelps published in the "Semi-Weekly Eagle," in 1849, extracts from the votes and proceedings of the Convention at Dorset, September 25th, 26th, and 27th, which had not previously been published in Williams' History, Slade's State Papers, or elsewhere, he must have had access to this record.

Judge Wheeler's second letter gives additional and, it would seem, incontestable proof of Mr. Phelps' early possession of this record, but very little light as to how he came by it:

"BRATTLEBORO, *January* 2, 1904.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter suggesting whether the extracts from the Record of Dorset Convention of September 25, 1776, published in the 'Semi-Weekly Eagle' here November 5, 1849, may not have come from 'Slade's State Papers,' and, referring to Judge Phelps' memorandum, was duly received and has been considered.

The 'State Papers,' page 66, show the membership and organization of the Convention, but no numbered vote, and but one vote as such and a summary of others. Dr. Fay's Record shows the membership and organization of the Convention, and forty-seven numbered votes. Of these numbered votes, the extract furnished by Judge Phelps to the 'Eagle' gives Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 44, 46, and 47. The membership and organization of the Convention, and some votes relating to adjournments and to the militia, are omitted. The votes given are copied as to spelling and capitals as they are in Dr. Fay's Record. The 'State Papers' would furnish no basis for such an extract. It could not have been made without Dr. Fay's Record.

There can be no mistake about the date of the furnishing of this extract by Judge Phelps to the 'Eagle,' for it is in Volume 3, Number 26, of the current numbers published by B. D. Harris & Co., November 5, 1849, of which the late Hon. B. D. Harris was the editor. This seems to show conclusively that Judge Phelps had the copy of Dr. Fay's Record before that time.

I have also noticed the memorandum of Judge Phelps referred to by you, saying, 'Copied from the original record November 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1862, by James H. Phelps.' As that Record stands, it would indicate that it was copied from Dr. Fay's book at that time, but there is plainly some error in it. If it means first copied from the original Dr. Fay Record at that time

it is clearly an error, for he had then had a copy more than thirteen years. It may mean copied from the original copy of Record. If so, it would be correct. He may have inadvertently put 1862, the date at which he then was, in place of the year when he took the copy from Dr. Fay's book. However it may be, the extract printed in the 'Eagle' must have come from Dr. Fay's book, and seems to be the first publication in print of any substantial part, by votes and numbers, of Dr. Fay's Record.

I have delayed one day because the Library was not open yesterday, so that I could get at the files of the 'Eagle,' but I desired to put you in possession of all the facts in answering so far as I could, and therefore waited.

Yours very truly,

HOYT H. WHEELER.

Senator PROCTOR."

Mr. Benedict's letter following, with the extract from the Free Press, goes to corroborate the evidence of Judge Wheeler's letters that Mr. Stevens or Judge Phelps had access to this record at a time long previous to the date given by Mr. Phelps to the Committee of Publication of the Historical Society as the date of his taking the copy.

"BURLINGTON, *January* 11, 1904.

DEAR SENATOR: Permit me to call your attention to the fact which has just come to my notice, that the Vermont Declaration of Independence, adopted at the Westminster Convention of January 15, 1777, and the record of the Windsor Convention of June 4, 1777, which adopted the name Vermont, were printed in the Burlington Free Press of June 26, 1846. The late H. B. Stacy, who was the editor of the Free Press at that time, introduced the documents as follows:

'INTERESTING DOCUMENTS.

We are indebted to the polite attention of our old friend, Henry Stevens, Esqr., of Barnet, for copies of the official papers touching the christening and baptism of our beloved State. They have never before been published and will now be read with thrilling interest. * * * These documents should be read in every town and village throughout the State on the approaching 4th of July, and a salute of one gun for each name fired in honor of the old heroes. * * * These papers were dug out from among the old rubbish at Washington last winter by Mr. Stevens, and their existence is now for the first time made known to the public. * * * While maintaining an open war with the neighboring States they (the Vermonters) protected the whole line of our frontier by keeping on terms with the common enemy while at the same time they rendered more efficient aid to the government which discarded them than either of the States alluded to. The official correspondence with Washington, some of which is among these interesting papers, goes to demonstrate this beyond a doubt.' * * *

Here seems to be evidence that a part at least of these records was found by Henry Stevens, at Washington, previous to 1846, and that he had found more of the record of the Convention of June 4, 1777, than is contained in the sheets of the Fay book, which you are reproducing. This, you see, was several years before Mr. Phelps made his copies. Mr. Stacy does not say that Mr. Stevens found other records of the Conventions, but he alludes to other 'interesting papers,' including the correspondence with Gen. Washington, found by Mr. Stevens at Washington, and it is quite possible, I think, that he may have had additional records of the Conventions—perhaps had the Fay book of records—in his hands previous to June, 1846. Of course Mr. Stacy was in error in his statement that these documents had 'never before been published,' he being apparently unaware that they were published in the Connecticut Courant in March and June, 1777, and that the Declaration of Independence was printed in the Appendix to Vol. II of the second edition of Williams' History of Vermont, published in 1809.

Is it not probable that Stevens discovered the Fay account book at Washington or somewhere; that he allowed Judge Phelps to take it and copy it, and that he pledged Phelps to secrecy as to where he (Phelps) obtained it.

Yours truly,

G. G. BENEDICT.

Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR,
U. S. Senate."

Mr. van Laer, of the New York State Library, under the date of January 25th, writes:

"I wish to announce a little discovery, which, though not exactly what we want, is yet most exciting and tantalizing. Scattered through a number of volumes of unassorted papers of the Henry Stevens collection, I found some thirty letters written by James H. Phelps to Henry Stevens between the years 1847 and 1851. On a stray sheet which I after a while identified as belonging to a letter dated 'West Townshend 6th Sept. 1847,' Mr. Phelps says: 'In the 2d Vol.—William's History of Vt. page 453, I find the following: "Original records of the Convention, p. 62–68; in the hands of Jonas Fay of Bennington." Have you been able to obtain the whole of those original records?'

"Then in a letter dated 'West Townshend 23d Sept. 1847,' which begins 'Your very interesting letter of the 17th inst. is before me. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here before long; as it is very uncertain about my being able to leave home this fall in order to go to Montpelier, and I am anxious to have you look over all the papers, pamphlets and volumes in my possession connected with our revolution.' He remarks, 'The journals of our County conventions and the records of our Committees of Safety, I fear, are irrecoverably lost. What a treasure they would now be—those mile-stones showing the progress of man to self government.'

"There are about a dozen letters of 1847, one of 1848, three of 1849 and a dozen or more for 1850 and 1851. I have carefully gone through all these letters but nothing more is said in regard to the journal of the conventions. The earlier letters are addressed 'Henry Stevens Esq.,' the last one of 1849 and those of 1850–51 'Friend Stevens,' showing the closer relations between the two men. I am most anxious to examine the whole of the Stevens collection to make sure that there is not some other letter giving us just the information we want."

Mr. van Laer in a later letter writes that he has examined the rest of the Stevens' collection, but has not found any other letters from Judge Phelps, or any other mention of the early Vermont conventions.

The facts given in these letters are important, and go to show that portions of this manuscript were copied and published before the Phelps copy, but they fail to identify it positively at any given time or place. Mr. Phelps informed the Committee of Publication that "he thought it might *probably* be found in the possession of some of Dr. Fay's descendants." And Governor Hall says that "inquiries were made for it in quarters where it was thought most likely to be found, but without success." It is what Mr. Phelps *does not say* rather than what he says that is significant, and unless under some restriction, why would he not have stated definitely to the Committee how he obtained it?

Mr. Phelps' copy was not published in The Vermont Historical Society Collections until after Mr. Dawson had obtained the ledger from Mr. Edwin B. Safford. He says that it was made some years previously, and this statement and the views of Judge Wheeler and Mr. Benedict as to earlier partial publications of the record can only be reconciled with the facts on the theory that Mr. Stevens or Mr. Phelps made a copy from the ledger while it was in the possession of the Safford family. But it seems strange that, if either one of these men so devoted to antiquarian research had found this record, they would not have purchased it. Possibly Mr. Jonathan W. Safford, or his widow, or Mr. E. B. Safford, if he had then acquired it, objected to parting with it, and they had scruples, which Mr. Dawson does not seem to have had, about obtaining it in any other way. This minor point, however, I must leave unsettled, thankful indeed that the history of this manuscript of so great importance to Vermont has been fixed with such substantial certainty.

It has given me great pleasure to trace out this record. It is a record of the work of strong, brave men, and their strength and courage did not fail them in that hour of trial and danger. The more we know of what they did then, the stronger must be our patriotic love for our State and the greater the honor in which we hold its founders.

REDFIELD PROCTOR.

FEBRUARY 15, 1904.